

REACHING HEARTS BRAZIL – JULY MISSION TRIP VERY IMPORTANT REMARKS

1. **Reaching Hearts International made a block reservation for 22 volunteers:** Total cost of trip today is \$1,550.00 (includes airfare from Baltimore/Recife/Baltimore, transfers to and from School, planting contribution and 4-day beach tourism. If you are interested in participating, please request an application form and make the \$100 non-refundable deposit **ASAP** to reserve your space. First come first served.
2. **Fundraising:** Most of the participants will be fundraising for this event. Tax deductible contributions for this event must be made by May 15th, 2010, by check payable to Reaching Hearts International (July Mission Trip on the memo line). **Every participant is expected to fundraise the equivalent of \$1,550.00 for the mission trip. If they want to go on the optional 5-day Amazon Trip there will be an extra \$750.00 cost for airline tickets/lodging/meals/transfers.**
3. **Fundraising Fruit Trees Gift Catalog, Pamphlets & CD Holders** are available to help you fundraise: Please request Elice Esveld (301-233-9099) or Pastor Mica Davis (301-717-9556).
4. **Tourist Visas:** Your visa will cost \$130 – The tourist visa is valid for 5 years, multiple entries. It takes 15 business days to get the visa at the Consulate of Brazil. They only accept Postal Office money orders payable to Brazilian Consulate. **Don't leave Visa for the last minute!** We will help you fill out application online, but you must go in person to the Consulate to turn in application..
5. **Copy of passport:** Please have copy available when submitting your application.
6. **Special activities under the coordination of RHI-Brazil School:**
 - Provision and preparation of all meals and mineral water
 - All in-land transportation while overseas
 - Materials and organization of activities with local people such as preparation of soil for planting, preparing seedlings ahead of time; purchasing fruit trees grafts and other materials needed for “planting by the blue-print”
7. **Special activities under the responsibility of the RHI Mission Trip Group:**
 - Morning and evening devotionals and vespers
 - VBS program and activities for 11 evenings (the last evening is a grand-finale where prizes will be given away to VBS participants)
 - Participation in Church programs/services for 2 Sabbath mornings, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday Bible Studies: if you sing or play an instrument – please be prepared to help.
8. **Musical instrument:** If you play the guitar or some other small instrument- make you you bring it with you! You will use it a lot during the trip.
9. **Vacation Bible School Supplies:** Please help us collect colored pencils, crayons, scissors, glue and stickers to be used during crafts at VBS. We expect each volunteer to help in the VBS in the evenings.
10. **Used Clothing:** Each passenger has the right to ship two suitcases up to 72 pounds each – besides carry-ons. We plan to have each participant take the “second” suitcase full of used clothing and shoes (adults and children) to donate to the poor people living in the vicinity of the school. Start requesting donated used clothing – as well as large suitcases - to families and friends.
11. **Vegetarian Cooking:** All meals being provided during the trip are vegetarian. Lots of fresh fruits, greens and vegetables are used. In Brazil there is only the very basic vegetarian dry meats – there are no frozen or fancier dry meats available in the country. If anyone would like to donate to the School some frozen Worthington corned beef (3 pound rolls) – or any other vegetarian dry meats - it would be greatly appreciated.
12. **Laundry arrangement:** There are no washing or drying machines at the school. Clothes are washed by hand and sun dried and then ironed. Arrangements can be made for someone to wash, dry and iron the clothes during the stay – for a fee of \$10 per person.
13. What to bring?:
PERSONAL USE:
Bible: make sure you bring your own, everyone uses their personal Bibles in Brazil.

Summer clothes for work and play, flip-flops
Working clothes, gloves, boots, hat. You should bring one long sleeve light colored shirt to protect arms from the sun.
Church clothes and shoes
Set of used sheets (single or double with pillowcase) and towels – that can be donated to the school at the end of trip
Swimwear & extra bath towel
Items for personal hygiene/toiletries, washing soap, powder, antiseptic hand gel
Sunscreen (the sun below the Ecuador CAN & WILL BURN!!! – please bring sunscreen protection of 45+)
Sunglasses
Water bottle
Camera, flashlight and spare batteries
Zip lock bags (very useful)
Snack bars (will come handy many times)
Any prescription drugs

Suggestive medications: Imodium/ Tylenol/ Antacid/ Benadryl/ Anti-Inflammatory/ Basic first aid kits, etc.

TO GIVE AWAY IN OUTREACH EFFORTS:

- Small stuffed animals. Visit the Thrift store to purchase used stuffed animals for very cheap. The children will love them.
- Used clothes/shoes – small adults and children
- Games, toys, small cars (from dollar store or Thrift store)
- Items for personal hygiene (tooth paste/brushes, small items such as soap, shampoo, lotion, etc.
- Small individual gifts for people directly involved in offering assistance/help to the volunteers.

- 14. Electricity:** Make sure that whatever you bring has dual capacity (110/220) or bring a converter. Transformers are available in the country, but very heavy and expensive (non-practical).
- 15. Tools and supplies** are very scarce and expensive in Brazil. Some tools will be available for volunteers to work with, but again, they are limited. If your expertise requires some special tools /supplies and if you are willing to bring them with you – it will be very much appreciated. Maybe some of those tools could even be left behind for the School to use in future missions, it's up to you! If you have questions about what to bring... consult us! **For the July trip – we could use extra hoes, shovels, picks (the heads only).**
- 16. Dress code:** Take into consideration that Brazil is a tropical country and that the area of this mission trip is warm all year around. Long Bermudas and jeans, T-shirts are perfect for week work. During VBS meetings and for Sabbath church meetings, however, ladies are expected to wear skirts. The use of pants for ladies – is not accepted for church/religious meetings, so try to avoid these.
- 17. Fishing / snorkeling:** Feel free to bring some equipment with you – as long as it is small. During the 4-5 days at the beach or in the Amazon you could certainly use it.