

Mission Trip Excursion with AMOS Health and Hope

Have you thought about serving with our foreign missionaries and are waiting for an opportunity?

Would you like to be part of a Mission 'Excursion' Team to serve AMOS Health and Hope in Nicaragua?

Bruce Van Der Beek from First Baptist Church – Johnston, IA is assisting AMOS in forming a mission team to travel to Nicaragua – in early 2027 (March-April, possibly in the first half of May). Our American Baptist International Missionary, with AMOS, Christy Lafferty, will be leading the trip!

An 'Excursion' trip is different than a work mission trip, as it would be less physically demanding than the normal project trip. Maybe you or other church members have been looking for this type of international mission trip! *This is it!*

The focus of the trip would be 'Educational/Relationship building' rather than 'Project/Relationship building'. Also, a main difference from a normal work team would be that we would have lodging in a nearby town during the rural portion of the trip, with real beds, running water - toilets and showers. You don't need to know Spanish to be part of the team, but you might want to have a few phrases ready to greet those you meet! The trip is fully escorted by the AMOS staff, including drivers, coordinators and interpreters.

We will ask each participant to personally contribute at least \$250 toward a project that the team would sponsor. With 8-10 team members, we would also need team member commitment to raise additional funds (TBD) to cover the full project costs. Part of our rural time would be spent learning about the work AMOS is doing, what our project money is supporting and the opportunity to interact with community members and children with a variety of activities, such as singing, bible stories, crafts and sharing. It is possible we may be able to take part in a community rural project, such as water filters or solar panels. We could prep the water filters at the AMOS Center in Managua and assemble them in a rural community group setting. We could visit an urban AMOS clinic that provides medical and dental services. Most likely we will travel to the mountainous departments of Matagalpa or possibly the Pacific Coast area of Chinandega to visit one of the rural communities and tour a maternal clinic waiting home. During March-April it's the dry season; weather in the mountains is days in the mid-to upper 80s and nights in the low 70s. One day of the trip would be spent touring historical sights and seeing the natural beauty in Managua, Masaya or Granada and surrounding areas. We would complete our time together by celebrating at one of the local Managua area restaurants.

Approximate trip cost per member (AMOS hosting costs, personal project cost and incidentals - \$1400.) This does not include the flight costs which could vary from \$750-\$1000, depending on future prices. Participants should be at least 18 years of age and an active part of their church. (High school youth accepted if they are with parent or guardian).

At this time, I'd like to gauge the initial interest in this type of trip. After I have an idea of interest, we will schedule a Zoom call with Christy Lafferty at AMOS to discuss your questions, itinerary ideas and any concerns. Please respond to bvanderbeek55@gmail.com by February 28, 2026, that you are interested in exploring the trip. You also can email Bruce any initial questions.

We need 8 members for a viable trip and would like to have 10 – max is 12. This will be Bruce's 11th trip serving AMOS Health and Hope.

After we form a viable team of committed members, we will schedule a series of Zoom meetings for all team members to learn about the work of AMOS, help you know what to expect, prepare for the trip, ask questions and assist in final checklists before we depart. We will make sure everyone has all the assistance they need!

Read more about AMOS Health and Hope at <http://www.amoshealth.org>. This is going to be a great trip!