



[About CALMS](#)

[What We Do](#)

[Where We Work](#)

[Get Involved](#)

[News, Information & Stories](#)

[Resources](#)

[Make A Donation](#)

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A Mission Message from God's Word:

My all-time favorite mission passage from scripture is Philippians chapter two where St. Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, tells the early Christians and us that we are to have Christ's attitude of self-sacrificing humility and love for others.

That advice is nowhere more important than when we leave our own culture and community in the United States and travel to a mission field to serve. We are to have the same "attitude as that of Christ Jesus"—an attitude of humility and service--as we go about our daily lives in our own hometown and when we cross barriers of time-zones and different cultures to share and demonstrate God's love and forgiveness.

Jesus, "being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Phil. 2:6-8)

This amazing passage reminds us that Jesus, although he was God, gave up heaven and all its privileges in order to accomplish His mission of saving all mankind from their sins. To do that, he chose to leave a perfect place at the right hand of His heavenly Father and come to our very imperfect world. He left heaven where he was surrounded by angels to be born in a humble stable where he was surrounded by animals and equally smelly shepherds.

This passage clearly tells us that Jesus was the greatest cross-cultural missionary of all time!

If missionaries cross barriers of time and space and culture in order to serve, Jesus crossed the greatest barriers of all—from eternity to human history at a specific time and place—in order to give his life as a sacrifice for the sins of all mankind.

Our main job as missionaries who have His “attitude” of service and humility is to point others—including those from different cultures—to the Servant who loved them and died for them.

As a result of our missionary service, it is God’s desire and plan that “every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:10 and 11)

That should be our desire as well! What an amazing privilege we have—to serve the King of Kings and to help more people “confess that Jesus is Lord.”

Steve Hughey, Executive Director



CALMS sends out mission teams to serve with our Central American partners. In the process of serving, short-term team members grow in faith and mission understanding. Central Americans who work with our short-term teams are also growing in mission commitment and developing new skills.

Short-term Mission Opportunities with CALMS

CALMS is currently sending short-term mission teams to Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Panama. Typical teams consist of 8 to 12 people serving for 7-10 days. August is a perfect time to plan for a 2010 short-term trip in order to assure a spot for your team!

The typical cost including air travel, local transportation, housing and meals is between \$1,000 and \$1,400 per person. CALMS helps team leaders and teams prepare financially for their trips by sharing early in the process a detailed schedule and Good Faith Estimate (GFE). This helps teams know within \$50 to \$100 what their final costs will be. We strive to be completely transparent so that we can minimize surprises and help facilitate effective planning.

Our short-term philosophy emphasizes close relationships and team-work—both among volunteers from North America and between North Americans and Central Americans.

Everyday, CALMS' team members assess the needs, look at alternatives, and always respectfully ask, "What is the best way to meet real needs on the field using the available resources of volunteers?"

We seek to be flexible as we match willing volunteers with opportunities. Sometimes, we begin with the needs on the field and look for specific people with the gifts that are needed to accomplish a particular project.

For example, we recently were asked to help 35 Christian congregations and their leaders as well as a number of schools, hospitals, and prisons to help them develop a counseling training program for Belize. In this case, we recruited four highly trained Christian counselors who are working with their Belizean counterparts to develop a new counseling curriculum and training program.

In other cases, we may have a North American congregation asking for an opportunity to serve with a short-term team. We look at their experience and service profile and dialog with our partners in Central America in order to design an appropriate project. Always, we seek to help North American and Central American Christians work together effectively to accomplish helpful, needed and strategic ministry. Always, we seek to form teams made up of North American and Central American Christians in order to meet needs and grow the capacity of all involved.

Where possible, we try to design projects that will help Christians from different cultures work and learn side-by side. For example, we are currently preparing to send a small group of North Americans who speak Spanish to work with a small group of Panamanian Christians to work together in Costa Rica to help advance a new church planting effort.



Members of a short-term mission team from Carmel Lutheran Church in Carmel Indiana work side-by-side with volunteers and family members to build a new house for fellow Lutherans near Gualan, Guatemala.

Another important part of our short-term philosophy focuses on designing strategic projects that really impact the society and help our Central American partners build their capacity and move forward in mission and ministry. A recent example is the community impact project that connected CALMS' volunteers from the United States with local Christians in Guatemala to bring medical services to a new community. This project included both medical professionals and those without medical training. Projects like this show that everyone can make some kind of difference in God's mission. CALMS' challenge is to match the resources with the needs—something that we work hard at!

Short-term teams from the United States have served recently with Central Americans to put on music and drama events, build houses for poor people, provide much needed health care, and teach children about Jesus. In the end, both groups learn and serve together, and in the process God grows His church both in Central and North America.

CALMS works hard to make sure that each short-term mission experience is a good one for both the North American volunteers we send and our Central American partners. In addition to designing truly helpful and strategic projects, we work hard at providing all the logistics needed to support and deploy a team.

We also work hard to prepare the team by training the team leader. We do this in one of two ways: 1) Inexperienced leaders may elect to go along on a short-term trip as a participant with an experienced leader. 2) We organize and lead a number of on-field training events each year to help equip future leaders to successfully lead their teams. Contact CALMS about current opportunities to prepare team leaders by sending an email message to calms@calms.org.

In addition to the on-field training, we also provide individualized support for short-term leaders through regularly scheduled webinars and conference calls. Finally CALMS helps team leaders equip their team members by providing helpful printed and audio-visual resources.

For more information on CALMS' short-term, click on *Short-term Opportunities* in the *Quick Links* section of our website, www.calms.org .

Pray for Us...



CALMS' short-term team members pray for Guatemalan pastor, Luis Jasinto, during a recent short-term mission trip.

Thank God for the 30 CALMS' short-term mission teams who have served so far in 2009 to strengthen and equip Central American partners and demonstrate God's love! Thank the Lord also for how He is helping Christian volunteers grow in faith through their short-term service!

Thank God for a CALMS' team from Resurrection Lutheran Church in Spring, Texas led by Pastor Ric McMillian, who are presently working with Guatemalan Christians to build a new house and lead a VBS program in the Zacapa area of Guatemala.

Pray to our missionary God that those who have heard the Gospel as a result of recent outreach in Belize by Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri and St. John Lutheran Church in Ellisville, Missouri, might grow in faith and Christian maturity. Ask God to bring mature Christians into the lives of new believers in Belize so that they might grow in faith.

Ask God to be with Miles and Elma Richmond, CALMS' housing counselors, as they prepare to travel to Guatemala to begin their new ministry. Ask the Holy Spirit to grant them His peace as they leave family behind and make new friends.

Thank God for his guidance and protection for Pastor Miguel Torneire, who recently returned from a two-week visit to Guatemala to help plan future short-term mission trips with CALMS' Guatemalan partners.

Thank the Lord of the Harvest for opening new doors in Panama for the Gospel! Ask God to continue blessing the mission efforts of Pastor Jose Angel in Rio Rita who recently began a new ministry in the nearby community of Rio Rita Sur. Thank God also for the mission zeal of Demetrio, a Panama Lutheran missionary, who is leading a new church-

planting effort to Los Nubes, a new community of Kuna Indian people near Panama City. Finally, pray for the newly formed small groups established by members of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Panama City and the new primary school begun by Pastor Ruben and his wife Gladys in their home.



Missionary pastor, Jose Angel, who serves in Rio Rita, Panama, washes the feet of short-term volunteers from the University of Florida, Gainesville, at a recent foot-washing ceremony. Both groups washed each others feet to demonstrate a servant attitude. The Panamanian and American Christians worked together on a variety of projects including community outreach, home repair, and children's ministry.