

## A Typical Day on a Mission Trip with *Luke 9:2 Ministries*

A mission trip to Central America with *Luke 9:2 Ministries* is bound to change your perspective, your outlook, and probably your life. But life-changing moments usually come when we allow God to stretch us, bend us, and move us out of our comfort zone. If you are ready for it, then take a peek at what a mission trip could look like for you....

A typical clinic day starts early! Whether you wake up in a third-world “motel” or the dorm room of a missionary compound, your day starts at 5:30am with roosters serving as the perfect wake-up call. After a lukewarm shower, you gather with the team to eat breakfast and fellowship. Breakfast ends with a brief devotional and a time of prayer to ask God to bless your work such that not only are the people’s physical needs addressed, but that their spiritual needs are met as well. You all then pile into a big yellow school bus (deemed past its prime in the USA but still with a good twenty years of use in Central America) and head into the rural countryside.

You will typically spend anywhere from an hour to two hours in the bus in order to reach the daily clinic destination. Though the bus ride is long, it enables you to leave the more well-to-do towns and head up into the countryside where the needs are far greater. Additionally, the bus ride serves as another great opportunity to fellowship with each other and to build the strong sense of community that is such a big part of the *Luke 9:2 Ministries* experience. You will know when you’ve reached your destination village by the line of hundreds of folks who have been patiently waiting your arrival since daybreak.

You will set up your make-shift clinic in the empty rooms of the local schoolhouse where dusty concrete floors, open windows, and battered wooden tables and chairs serve as the clinic infrastructure. Each classroom serves a purpose: The Dental Clinic, The Medical Clinic, Pharmacy, Eyeglasses. Somehow, out of the chaos of running children, breastfeeding mothers, and worn-down older men, a streamlined clinic emerges. Each participant on the team, both medical-trained and non-medical, has an important role to play. And, while the team focuses on the physical requests of the people, the local missionary team with whom we partner will share the love of Christ. Except for a brief lunch break, you will work from 9am until the last patient is seen late in the afternoon. It is a long day, but by the end you will have likely treated over 500 medical and dental patients as well as dispensed boxes of eyeglasses and hundreds of pills.

The long bus ride back may be quieter as you reflect on the incomprehensible poverty, strength, and resilience of the people you saw that day. After dinner together and a chance to clean up, you will meet as a group once more to reflect on the individual stories and impactful moments of the day as well as to prepare for the following day’s venture to a new site and a new group of people waiting for the precious medical knowledge and spiritual food that you are bringing. By then it is late, and you need a good night’s sleep because you will repeat this day four more times before the end of the week.

A trip with *Luke 9:2 Ministries* will certainly stretch you, test your endurance, and get you outside your comfort zone. But given the chance, it can also open your eyes to the needs of God’s people and bless you in ways that are unimaginable. *Are you ready?*