

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....

It 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 in 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 rides are 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 rides serve as another great opportunity to fellowship with each other and 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 how 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 room 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. 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.

You will also have the opportunity to meet the local pastor and church members who have invited us to come as part of their own evangelism and outreach efforts. The team’s very presence provides tangible proof of Christ’s love, even if you don’t have enough grasp of the local language to pray directly with your patients. Thus, while the team focuses on the physical needs of the people, the local church leaders with whom we partner use this opportunity to share the love of Christ in a manner that is comfortable and familiar to the families we are serving.

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 in conjunction with the local church. By then it is late, and your day comes to a close.

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?*