

SUMMER MISSIONS INFORMATION PACKET

Albania

CALVARY CHURCH OF SANTA ANA



SUMMER 2018

PURPOSE OF SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS

The High School ministry at Calvary Church values missions. We continue in Calvary's history of training up young people for the work of Missions. If you are not aware of Calvary's history we encourage you to read up on it. Many missions organizations were born here at Calvary and hundreds of missionaries have called Calvary their home church. Short Term Missions serves as a training ground for young people. It is the primary place for a teenager to be exposed to what the international mission field looks like.

We do this by bringing students to the front lines of international missions work. These students come alongside our missionaries and help them continue the work that they have started. They support the missionaries and begin to make bonds with local people in the countries that we visit. Through these trips many things start to develop in the heart of a young person: a love for the people of every nation, a bigger picture of the world is drawn, and in many cases God uses this to draw students out of their comfort zones to serve Him more radically.

Young people also grow in their understanding of themselves. Traveling internationally sheds light on who we are- when we step outside of our normal context we can often make sense of our life like never before. We can think of nothing better for a high school student than to see themselves in light of the vastness of the world and the breadth of God's love for every human on earth.

Lastly, these Short Term Mission trips are a response to the call that God has given us. The High School Ministry is going to Albania, where young people are needed to partner and serve with the missionaries who live there. In Albania, our sister church, The Way of Peace Church, needs teams to teach English to the Muslim students and run a youth camp to introduce and remind them of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God has called us to live a life of loving others and next summer (2018) we have an opportunity to respond to the call of the Lord, to grow as people, and to develop into mature Christians with a heart for international missions.

WHAT ARE THE DATES?

Potential Dates (the dates are potential because we are still in communication with a travel agent working out flights):

JUNE 14-28, 2018



WHO CAN GO ON THIS TRIP?

This trip is for incoming Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, & a select few of graduated Seniors who will be junior leaders.

Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors: Please refer to the “What Will We Be Doing” section to learn about your specific role on the trip.

Graduated Seniors: This trip is only open to graduated seniors who have been on the trip before. Your role will primarily look the same as the other students’, however you will have added responsibilities. Each individual’s extra duties will pertain to his or her talents, gifts, and interests as well as being of assistance to Eryn, the trip leader (limited space for this role).

WHERE IS THE TRIP?

This summer we have the opportunity to return (for the 5th time) to Lushnje, Albania and partner with our sister church - The Way of Peace Church.

Albania is a republic on the Balkan Peninsula in southeastern Europe that borders the Adriatic Sea and Ionian Sea to the west, Montenegro to the north, Serbia (Kosovo) to the north east, the Republic of Macedonia to the east, and Greece to the south east.

WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?

ENGLISH CLASSES: We will be partnering with our sister church in Albania called, “The Way of Peace Church.” On this trip we will work alongside the church’s pastor and congregation in their local ministries. These ministries include English classes at their Victory School, day camps and activities, with the area’s youth, service projects, and evangelizing in the villages. Students who are part of this team will be challenged to view the world outside of their normal comfort zones and to share the gospel story with others.

CAMP: In addition to teaching English we will spend a few days running a camp for these same students. The English classes are excellent for establishing and building relationships between us as a team and the students. By the end of English classes there will be a mutual trust between the team and the students which will be beneficial as we head into camp where the gospel of Jesus Christ will be preached.



SAFETY & TRAVEL

We understand that traveling around the world and ministering to people in far away countries presents a danger that is not encountered in the everyday life of a high school student. The high school group, and Calvary Church, realizes that there is an inherent risk in traveling outside the country and being in these places. However, we do not view the risk as a serious crisis. To promote the safety of the students while on these trips we diligently take proactive steps in protecting everyone involved with Short Term Missions. We always send someone on the trip that has gone before and we always take major airlines that have great safety ratings. When traveling on the ground in Albania, we make sure that we have our local connections (in most cases the missionaries) driving us around. We never leave the groups alone in dangerous circumstances. When groups are on their own it is only in safe places where police presence is available and reliable. We also do our homework by looking into current situations that are happening in the countries we travel to. We check in with all local US Embassys before our arrivals. Additionally, we always have responsible, well traveled leaders who are leading these trips.

We do all of this to minimize any potential danger that can come up. In all the years that we have been doing these trips we have been very successful in eliminating the danger of traveling while staying in these foreign countries. That being said, God has called us to reach out to the whole world, and at Calvary Church we follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before us and boldly go out to wherever the Lord calls us. Please contact us with any concerns you may have in this area.

WHAT IS THE COST?

Somewhere between **\$2,600-\$2,900** with a **\$250 deposit** included in the overall cost. Due to uncertain travel costs & budget we cannot give you the exact amount at this time. However, come January we will be informing you of the exact price.

FUNDRAISING

Each team member is responsible for the total cost of his or her trip and we understand this cost is very expensive. However, the entirety of this trip is paid for fully through fundraising (except for the deposit). We require that each team member send out support letters to family and friends to raise financial support. We will teach each team member how to support raise. If for some reason a team member does not raise enough funds to fully pay his or her balance, then he/she is responsible for paying the rest of the balance on their own. If you have any questions about the cost of the trip please do not hesitate to ask Eryn.



TRIP DEBRIEF: VIENNA, AUSTRIA

On our way back home from Albania we will spend two nights in Vienna, Austria. The purpose of this layover is to debrief from our experience in Albania. We will have group time as well as solo time journaling and praying to aid in processing the trip as a whole. Along with this we will have the opportunity to explore some ancient sites and see local churches and cathedrals.

PICTURES FROM PAST TRIPS

