

YES II
CAMPAIGN
GUIDEBOOK

PENONOME, PANAMA

MAY 27-JUNE 3, 2023

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

It is an honor to be leading this team! I am so thankful you are part of the LAM family! If you're a first timer, I want you to know that you are embarking on a life-changing experience. God is glorified in your choice to seize this opportunity to bring the gospel of Christ to souls in Panama.

For many of us, we have been waiting a long time to get back in the mission field. With the tragic loss of Spencer Broome in the midst of a pandemic, it has been a challenge to get these campaigns up and going again. We carry on Spencer's legacy and honor him by taking the torch and moving forward in this great work.

The purpose of this campaign guidebook is to give you the information you need to prepare for the campaign, explain some best practices that will make this experience easier, and answer most of the questions you have and many questions you didn't know you needed to ask. **PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE BOOKLET THOROUGHLY.** Part of being a good team member is being informed and on the same page with the group. If you see any information repeated, that's because it's important. Foreign travel can be stressful and unpredictable. So, one of the most important virtues you can bring with you is **FLEXIBILITY.**

In the package with this guidebook, I have included **three** things for every individual team member to bring: luggage tags, contact cards, and "Does It Matter?" Bible study booklets. I will give instructions about each of these.

Thank you for taking this gospel opportunity with me! May God be glorified in this work!

- Cary Gillis, Director of Latin American Missions

CAMPAIGN SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 27th

Arrive at the Tocumen International Airport in Panama City, Panama. (Signage leading you to immigration may be confusing, as a new terminal was just added. Ask for help if you're not sure where to go.) Present your passport to the immigration officer. Pick up your bags and go through customs, where you will present your customs form. (You are in Panama on tourism status.)

I will meet you at the airport. Wear your team t-shirt, so you are easy to spot in a crowd. If you do not see me, I am probably escorting others on the hotel shuttle and will be back ASAP.

We are staying at the Riande Airport Hotel on the first and last night of the campaign. I have made all of the lodging and travel arrangements ahead of time.

Sunday, May 28th

6:00am Breakfast at the Riande. [Take your luggage (not backpacks) to the bus to be loaded before you eat!]

6:30am Leave for Penonome (3-hour drive)

[We will go directly to the church building for bible class and worship. (These services will be translated. Download the ministry league app. We will use this as our songbook.) Directly after, we will check-in to Hotel Coclé and eat lunch. (There is a restaurant at the hotel and several restaurants in walking distance of the hotel. We will come here for all mealtimes while in Penonome.) Around 2:30, we will go over the evangelism game plan, split up into teams, and go to work.]

10:00-11:00am Bible Class

11:00am-Noon Worship

12:30-2:30pm Lunch

2:30-5:30pm Evangelism

5:30pm Singing in English

6:00pm Preaching

7:30pm Dinner/Hotel

Monday–Thursday, May 29th–June 1st

8:00am Leave Hotel

8:15-9:00am Devotional and Announcements

9:00-11:30am Evangelism

11:30am-1:30pm Lunch

1:30-5:30pm Evangelism

6:30pm Singing in English (**Don't be late!**)

7:00pm Preaching [All Monday-Thursday evening services will have separate Spanish and English assemblies.]

8:30 Dinner/Hotel

Friday, June 2nd

8:00am Leave Hotel for Panama City

11:00am-3:00pm Panama Canal / Albrook Mall

4:00-5:00pm Visit Bible School of the Americas

6:30pm Team Banquet

Saturday, June 3rd

Fly Home

SPECIFIC CAMPAIGN INSTRUCTIONS

Passport: Everyone must have a passport that is good six months past the campaign dates.

Vaccinations:

- The Covid-19 vaccine IS NOT REQUIRED. (There are no Covid travel restrictions, such as masks or negative Covid tests.)
- Hepatitis A & Tetanus are recommended but not required. (See your health care professional.)

Hotel: [The rates are included in shared team expenses.]

- First and last night:
Riande Airport Hotel in Panama City.
Phone # 507-291-9012 | 507-6932-6535 (WhatsApp)
- Sunday through Thursday night:
Hotel Coclé in Penonome, Panama.
Phone # 507-908-5039 | 507-6418-6901 (WhatsApp)

Shared Team Expense (STE) covers: translators, lodging, in-country transportation, team t-shirt, etc.

\$1,051.00 Due in LAM office ASAP

CASH:

- **\$180-270** – We were unable to include most of the meals in the STE. Therefore, you will need money for 18 meals. This is approximately \$10-15 per meal, depending on your appetite. (Even though you can order breakfast at the Hotel Coclé restaurant, they stopped including breakfast with your room during covid.)
- **\$50-75** – You may want to bring spending money for snacks and souvenirs.
- **\$20** – On Friday, we will be going to the Panama Canal. This is optional. Anyone who does not want to go to the Panama Canal will have the option to stay at the nearby Albrook Mall.

Meals that are included in the STE: Breakfast on Sunday and Saturday at the Riande & the team banquet.

EVANGELISM IS WHY WE ARE DOING THIS

This week will be evangelism-training-focused. I will be training the group in evangelism basics, along with the training we will have “in the field.” In this package, I have included “Does It Matter?” Bible study booklets and contact cards. Every individual in the group needs to familiarize him/herself with these and bring them.

“Does It Matter?” Bible study booklet: This is what I am encouraging everyone to use in their Bible studies. I will have Spanish versions you can use. If you would like to purchase some that you can bring and leave there, please do that! This study guide will be recommended and provided, but not required.

- **First**, the best way to have a Bible study with someone is to have a structured, guided study. It keeps you on track to your study destination. While this is the study I recommend for this campaign, there are many others that work just fine, including study guides that you may create yourself.
- **Second**, I chose this study because it is easy to use and can teach someone the gospel in a short period of time. Some studies take longer than is feasible to use on a one-week campaign.
- **Third**, before you sit down and do a study with someone, take the time to ask them their religious story. Ask them if they think they are saved. If they say “yes,” ask them to write down all the details of their conversion: when, where, how, what they said, how old they were, what they did, what they understood, etc. You must make sure you are starting the study where they need you to start it. If they do not believe in God or that the Bible is not God’s word, you will need to start at a different place. If they do believe these, “Does It Matter?” will be a good place to start.

These QR codes will take you to training videos for how to use “Does It Matter?”:

“Does It Matter?” Intro



Does It Matter?” Study Walkthrough



Contact Cards: Keeping good records is vital to effective evangelism, because evangelism fails without having a system to follow-up with contacts. As you meet people, one team member’s job will be to keep detailed records: where they live, their names, their religious background, what was discussed/studied, prayer requests, etc. Record all the information you can think of that will make follow-up the most effective. It is ok to write the info in a notebook and transfer it to individual contact cards at the end of the day. Just let the contact card guide which info you’re trying to get.

Work Duties: Everyone will either be doing door-knocking or VBS. VBS will be in the schools during the day and at the church building at night. Some of you may do VBS or door-knocking all the time, while some of you may rotate work assignments.

PRE-CAMPAIGN PREPARATION

YOU SHOULD ALREADY:

1. Be Praying for the success and safety of our campaign.
2. Have your passport. (Do you KNOW where it is and when it expires?)
3. Sent a color copy/photo of your passport to LAM.
4. Have bought your plane ticket.
5. Have gotten shots: Hepatitis A and Tetanus

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW (as in right now. Go!):

1. Pray for the campaign: your own spiritual preparation and growth, the people we'll be meeting, the other campaigners, the translators, the local Christians we'll be working with, and me, your campaign leader.
2. Send in your Shared Team Expense of **\$1,051**.
3. Email your Flight Itinerary to cgillis.lam@forrestpark.org.
4. Start Exercising. Even walking regularly in preparation will make a huge difference when you're walking up and down hills in the tropical heat.
5. Friend me on Facebook. Join the YES II Facebook group. Text @yesii20 to 81010 and download the Remind App. I will use these to share information, especially while in Panama.

TO DO BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

1. Keep praying for the campaign!!!
2. Clearly mark each of your bags for travel with two luggage tags that I have sent to you.
3. Prepare for your job. Especially if you are going to be involved in evangelism and VBS.
4. Read and reread this guide. Do not skim any part of it. It just might save your life.

LAWS OF L.A.M.

Some people call these rules. Others call them commandments. Whatever you call them, they are the only NON-FLEXIBLE part of this campaign. These rules are from the over-seeing elders at the Forrest Park church of Christ.

1. Do not, under ANY circumstances leave the group. There is never a time when it is ok to go do something on your own. There are no exceptions to this rule. **DON'T DO IT!**
2. Do not part with your passport! It is the only thing that can identify you. Keep it on you at **ALL TIMES!!!**
3. Do not drink the tap water! Do not brush your teeth with the tap water. Do not wash contact lenses with the tap water. In Latin America, tap water is good for two things: bathing and baptizing. You **WILL** (not might) get sick if you drink the water. **REMEMBER:** Bad tap water makes bad ice (watch your drinks). There may be some restaurants that serve clean ice and water. If in doubt, ask your team leader or don't try it.
4. Do not eat the local fruits and vegetables. Salads are off limits.
5. **Clothing Guidelines: [NO SHORTS]** As followers of Christ and representatives of His gospel, our dress needs to be guided by holiness. We are calling the lost to partake of a holy life. How we dress can either undermine or affirm that message. With this in mind, the Forrest Park elders ask you **NOT** to wear the following: shorts, leggings, tight-fitting clothing, tank-tops, sleeveless shirts, or spaghetti straps. (Mid-calf capri pants are acceptable.) It is to the discretion of the team leader to ask someone to change clothes during the campaign. If you think I'll ask you to change clothes, don't pack it. These guidelines include travel days.
6. Do not wear flip flops or sandals except for showers. We will be working in a very rural community where farm animals often roam (even in the capital city). Parasites and disease can easily enter your body through your feet.
7. Do not consider any part of this campaign a vacation. You are not on your own time. You are part of a group, and you **MUST** be a team player.
8. **Plan to be early and you'll be on time.** It is better to wait on others than for others to wait on you. We will be gracious with each other. But understand the selfish nature of choosing to make others late. Ultimately, our time management impacts the time we get to spend sharing the gospel.
9. Always follow my instructions, not because you can't do it better but because there are very good reasons for my methods. If you think there is a better way to do something, please discuss it with me so that we can have as efficient of a campaign as possible. I am all about replacing good methods with better methods.
10. If you have ANY problems, I need you to notify **ME** immediately. I am best equipped to solve problems. I want to do everything in my power to make this a wonderful experience for everyone. Complaining to other team members brings down morale and will not help your problem.
11. Pools are for baptisms **ONLY**. Otherwise, they are off limits.
12. Give it your all, every day. **BUT** when it's time to rest, take advantage. If you need to sit out during work hours, it is better to rest for a few hours than to push yourself too hard.
13. Absolute **ZERO** tolerance for alcohol, tobacco, and non-prescription drug use. You will be immediately asked to leave the team.
14. Absolute **ZERO** tolerance for any illicit sexual activity including the use of pornography. You will be immediately asked to leave the team.
15. **NEVER** flush toilet paper or flushable wipes down the toilet in Latin America. The infrastructure can't handle it. You will probably clog your toilet and make a mess.

PACKING LIST

Needed Items:

- Passport
- Color copies of passport (keep in a different bag from your passport)
- Backpack
- Team t-shirt (You should have two that you wear on arrival and departure days.)
- Hat
- Money for meals/snacks/souvenirs
- Sturdy shoes
- Light weight clothing
- Toothbrush/toothpaste/floss
- Deodorant (PLEASE)
- Shampoo/soap
- Personal hygiene products
- Small First Aid Kit (bring first aid items that you think you will need)
- Medications/Allergy Medicine/Diarrhea Medicine (ask your doctor)
- Bug spray!!!! (Pump)
- Bible/Notebook/Bible Study Material/Contact Cards
- Pens/Pencils
- Hand Sanitizer (sanitizing alcohol wipes)
- Rain Jacket/Poncho (lightweight)

Optional Items:

- Passport Holder
- Money Belt/Fanny Pack
- Shower shoes
- Camera
- Pocket-size Kleenex
- Washcloth (many hotels won't have these)
- Snacks
- Pain killers
- Sunscreen
- Portable charger/power bank for cell phone
- Chapstick
- Reusable Bottle for water
- Flushable wipes
- Electrolyte drops/powder
- Travel Size Duct Tape (if you rip your clothing or bag)

THINGS TO BRING AND LEAVE

Here's some recommendations of things you can bring and leave in Panama.

If you bring some of these items (and let me know), I won't have to bring as much stuff!

- Spanish Bibles: Preferably the RVR 1960 translation (christianbook.com)
- "Back to the Bible" (in Spanish) study booklets (gladtidingspublishing.com)
- "Does It Matter?" (in Spanish) study booklets (gladtidingspublishing.com)
- Spanish Song books
(starbible.com/himnos-y-canticos-espirituales)
- Children's Bible story books (Spanish)
- Toys/trinkets: inflatable balls, frisbees, stuffed animals, bubbles, etc. (Walmart / dollar store
orientaltradingcompany.com)
- Craft supplies: crayons, pencils, pens, glue, tape, child scissors, coloring books, stickers
- Candy: individually packaged so you can give to kids while doing VBS and door-knocking
- Feminine hygiene products

[The above websites are only suggestions. Shop around online to find the current best prices.]

PACKING TIPS

1. Consult the website of the airline you will be using to find out what their limitations are for weight, size, number of bags you can carry, and COST.
2. Mark your luggage with team labels provided, to make your luggage stand out from the rest. Most luggage looks similar, and quite often people pick up the wrong bag. Put contact info inside one of the pockets, in addition to the tag, in case the tag breaks off.
3. Most airlines allow one check-on, one carry-on, and one personal bag.
CHECK-ON BAG: This trip is just long enough that travel size toiletries might not last the whole trip. Pack as light as possible in this bag. You can save weight by bringing two of a particular item in travel size. If you bring a regular size bottle with liquid, put them in your checked bag. 50 lbs is the industry standard for this bag. While traveling by plane, this is the only bag that can have sharp items (scissors/pocketknife) and large containers with liquids. (And yes, Miranda, peanut butter counts as a liquid.) There is no need to pack your own supply of water. Bottled water is easily available. There will be water waiting for you when you arrive.
CARRY-ON BAG: Pack at least one set of clothes in your carry-on. If your check-on bag is lost, you'll be glad you did. Also pack your heaviest things (non-liquid) in this bag. There are no weight restrictions on this bag. Paper, books, and any heavy materials are ideal for this bag.
PERSONAL BAG: Purses are not recommended. It is recommended to bring a backpack that is comfortable enough and sturdy enough to carry heavy items like Bibles during door-knocking. You will keep your personal /valuable items/medications in this bag.
4. **LADIES ONLY:** Pack personal hygiene products whether you think you'll need them or not.
5. Pack light weight clothing that dries quickly. Jeans are not ideal for tropical heat and humidity. This will also help keep your checked baggage from getting too heavy.
6. You will have little time or use for hair dryers, make-up, curling/flat irons, etc. Plus, it's just extra weight.
7. **Snacks:** The regular meals may not be enough to keep you going. It is recommended to have snacks for stamina and strength when you're working hard. Many people bring snacks. The hotel will be next to a grocery store where you can buy snacks.
8. **Pro-Tip: Packing each day's outfit in its own large zip-lock bag has advantages. This takes the deciding out of what you will wear every day. This keeps all of your clothes dry, as commonly our luggage will be exposed to the elements while traveling. (Our bags will probably be transported on the roofs of the busses.) Pressing the air out saves room in your bag. You can just put your dirty outfit back in the bag it came out of.**

TRAVEL TIPS

1. Check-in to your flight 24 hours in advance. Every major carrier will allow you to do this online or on the app.
2. Arrive at the airport especially early for international travel, at least 2 hours early! The “My TSA” app gives security checkpoint wait times.
3. Check your bags ALL THE WAY TO THE DESTINATION.
4. Keep your passport on you at ALL TIMES!!!
5. While going through security, have no items in your pockets, including belt, hat, and shoes. Wear shoes that are easy to take off.
6. For small containers of liquid in your carry-on bag, follow the 3-1-1 principle:
 - You may have only **3** liquid, aerosol, and/or gel items. They must be in 3.4 oz or smaller containers.
 - These items must be sealed together in a **1**-quart zip-lock bag.
 - You are allowed to have **1** of these zip-lock bags per passenger.
7. The money you bring must be “clean money.” NO TEARS. NO INK Markings. NO HOLES. NOT FADED. The bills must be in near perfect condition. You may not be able to use your money if it is not “CLEAN.”
8. Be a good traveling citizen. Delays happen. Flights get cancelled. Bags get lost. Be prepared for the worst and go with the flow. When trouble comes up, it is best to be friendly about getting the issues resolved. Most airline employees want to be helpful when these issues arise. Also, if you packed it, expect to carry it.
9. Check and double check your supply of personal medications. It will be difficult to acquire replacements or refills.
10. **Eating abroad. BE CAREFUL!** Some of the best things about going to another country is the different foods you will encounter. But, if it is not “blessed” by the team leader, don’t try it! One rule: Boil it, peel it, cook it, or forget it. Leafy vegetables like lettuce are impossible to clean properly, so they should be off your list of things to eat. Water and beverages are also tricky. Do not drink the water UNLESS it is purified, or it is in a place where the team leader has authorized its use. Ice made from bad water is bad ice. Bottled drinks are a safe bet without any problems. If in doubt, DON’T DRINK IT!

BEST PRACTICES

1. **Keep Hydrated.** Drink water often and when you think you've had enough, drink some more. It is VERY hot where we are going. Dehydration can happen quickly. Keep fluids with you at all times. Signs of dehydration: dry mouth, sleepy or tired, thirst, decreased urine output and darker yellow or amber in color, dry skin, constipation, headache, lightheaded, or dizzy. If you notice any of these symptoms... **THINK DRINK!** Consider using electrolyte drops/powders that you can add to the water.
2. **VERY IMPORTANT**—There is a very good chance that you will be asked by people you meet to help with some “favor” or “need.” Many of these are very legitimate and need attention. **PLEASE** send people with requests to your team leader. Even if you are willing to fulfill that need, please funnel it through your team leader. The reason: We want to funnel all help, money, and other assistance through the local church. This gives God the glory. We want the local people to see the church as a resource for help, rather than the “rich Americans.”
3. **Wear comfortable, sturdy shoes.** Hiking boots are not overkill, however, the cost of such boots maybe impractical to purchase just for this trip. I recommend two pairs of shoes, so that if one pair gets wet, you'll have the second pair to wear while the other pair dries.
4. **Translators**—Of all the jobs there are to do on a campaign, translating is probably the most difficult. Show patience and understanding. Translators are few and valuable. All of our translators work very hard, and it is exhausting work, but you will find out quickly that there are some that are more experienced than others. When using a translator, speak slowly and only speak one sentence at a time.
5. **In Someone's Home**—While door knocking, as a citizen of the USA, you will be welcomed into more homes and allowed to stay longer than a native would. You will be welcomed and shown hospitality. People may offer you something to drink and/or eat. It is important to your health that you **NOT** accept food or water from anyone. Always carry a small snack (crackers, nuts, cookies, etc.) and a bottle of water. Politely decline any offer of food or drink by saying “I have some”.
6. **Always carry either toilet paper or a travel size pack of Kleenex.** You never know when or where you'll need to use the bathroom.
7. **Many people shop for campaign clothes at thrift stores & consignment shops** so they can leave them behind for people. This also leaves room for bringing back souvenirs.
8. **When you have a preacher/translator/local member with you while stopping to buy a drink, snack, or meal, get them something.** While they will be given an allowance out of campaign funds for meals, they will appreciate the consideration.

GIVE TO L.A.M.

Many people will find a lifelong passion for missions after having their hearts touched by the amazing people of Latin America. Latin American Missions (LAM) exists for one purpose: to share the Gospel with the people in Spanish speaking countries in Central and South America. We are seed-sowers, but we need your help to be able to do more.

After participating in this campaign, you will realize there is more to do than can ever be done. However, we must do ALL we can. It is through people just like you that we can do more for these precious souls. Most people WANT to leave a legacy of hope for people that they meet; but they may not know how.

There are several ways that you can give to help spread the Gospel to this part of the world:

1. **Monthly Support:** Your Team Leader is part of the LAM staff that is supported by the giving of generous hearts. Also, our school—the Bible School of the Americas—located in Panama City, Panama, is in need of your support. Whether it's \$5 or \$1500, it will be used with good stewardship to the glory of God. We can arrange automatic withdrawal and even offer PayPal giving.
2. **Lump Sum Annual Giving:** There are times of the year when it may be convenient to give a lump sum (Tax returns, first of the year, end of the year, etc.).
3. **One-Time Gifts:** If you have a windfall of money, please consider giving to LAM, whether it be the sale of a house or car, or an inheritance.
4. **Estate Planning:** Legacy planning is an amazing way to leave a gift that will last beyond your years.
5. **Congregational Support:** We encourage congregations to invest relationships, time, and money into the churches in Latin America. We especially encourage individual congregations to focus on a specific area and congregation.
6. If you would like me to come to your congregation and share the gospel opportunities of LAM, please contact me!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Latin American Missions

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LET'S GO TO WORK!!!

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