

# EXTENDED-TERM MISSIONS

## Introductory Flyer

Looking for a rare opportunity to spend two years in uncomfortable surroundings, away from family and friends, eating a basic and rarely changing diet, taking cold showers, and making daily sacrifices? What's more, you can do all this and earn nothing... and that's the *Good News!*

On the flip side... are you looking for a dynamic Catholic Christian mission opportunity? Are you seeking to grow in your faith and to experience the presence of God in a community that challenges you to self-abandonment and holiness? **Then this missionary community is for you!**

The Missioners of Christ are offering a two-year missionary program to a few good men and women which focuses on serving the poorest of the poor of Honduras, both tangibly and spiritually, as well as providing these individuals with formation and spiritual development. The missionary-in-training who serves Christ always receives inestimable benefits from giving their gift of self, *but this is by no means a self-focused program!*

***"If you want to be my disciple, deny yourself, pick up your cross daily and follow me"***

Luke 9:23

Minimum requirements:	The volunteer must be a Confirmed Catholic, at least 19 years of age, with two years of post-high school education or full-time work (including at least 1 year of living away from home) and be submitted to the full Teachings of the Catholic Faith.
Duration:	The volunteer needs to be open to committing at least two years to the mission. The initial 3 - 5 months, however, is a discernment period in which the missionary and the Missioners mutually discern if they are called to serve longer-term in this mission.
Cost:	The volunteer needs to raise a minimum of <b>\$6,500</b> for up to a two-year stay. This includes room & board, missionary insurance, in-country transportation, and other general expenses. This does not include language school fees (which usually average anywhere from \$175-250 a week, with total cost depending on how many weeks of intensive study you need) and does not include flights to and from Honduras. Missioners can assist with fundraising ideas and sample letters.

### Phase I: Pre-Mission Formation (Yr 1: May - August)

For those who have been mutually discerned to serve with us as an XT Missioner, the mission begins seven weeks before the missionary-in-training even steps foot in Honduras. We are deeply committed to Christ's exhortation to "make disciples of all nations." Therefore, the formation program, which is sent to the volunteer at home in the weeks leading up to the mission, emphasizes spiritual, catechetical, and logistical preparation. The volunteer must be committed to setting aside a minimum of a half hour each day during this phase to work through a formation program based on the encyclical *Redemptoris Missio* (Mission of the Redeemer). By emphasizing this preparation and formation, the volunteer not only arrives in Honduras

“on the same page” as those already at the mission, but has already begun the transformation process that the Holy Spirit is desiring to do within him or her.

## Phase II: Orientation, Immersion, & Discernment (Yr 1: August – Mid December)

This phase runs from August/September (depending on amount of language school needed) through Mid-November (all XT Volunteers, whether they are discerned to stay on longer or not, return to the U.S. in mid-December, with those continuing on returning in January). It is a phase of both preparation and discernment, as the best way to discern is by being immersed in the mission. In this way, we can better determine with you if you are indeed called to give up two years of your life in this particular Community/Apostolate.



This phase is in turn broken down into four sub-phases:

1. **Initial Orientation** (3 – 5 days; July/August)
2. **Language Immersion** (4 – 8 weeks; August – September, dependent on Volunteers’ level of fluency)
3. **Formation & final discernment** (10 weeks; September – Mid November)
4. **Ongoing Formation & Community Building** (4 weeks; Mid-November – Mid December)

## Phase III: Formation & Mercy Ministry (Yr. 1: Mid-January – August)

This phase begins mid-January for those who have mutually discerned their calling for the next 18 months to serve in a missionary capacity with the Missioners. **Formation** –The Missioner participates in study of Church Teaching related to missionary work, solidarity with the poor, and our part in Christ’s mission on Earth. Regular personal and communal prayer is the center of the missionary’s life. Most of the formation is received by the daily encounters and service to Christ in the Hondurans and within the missionary Community.



The service facet of this phase involves a heavy emphasis on mercy ministry and preliminary evangelistic outreach – park and neighborhood evangelization and catechesis, assisting with medical mission coordination, Pan de Vida Eucharistic youth retreats, outreach and formation of children and youth in the local communities and other service in conjunction with local pastors and other religious orders, such as food distribution to the poor. Evangelization and discipleship will be woven into the missionary’s experience, through the active practice of Corporal Works of Mercy.

## Phase IV: Evangelization & Discipleship (Yr. 2: September – Mid-August)

The second year of missionary activity in the Missioners program has its main emphasis in evangelization and discipleship. Mercy ministry, ongoing formation, and spiritual direction will continue during the second year, but the Missioner emphasis will be on spreading Christ’s Gospel message, and teaching others to do the same.



For each individual missionary, this phase will be adapted to the needs of the Diocese/parish communities, and the gifting of the missionary. This could include longer-term (weeks and even months) missions in mountain villages where Catholics have limited access to the Sacramental and Faith life of the Church. It can also involve months of living in a community where a Diocesan priest is looking for help in the evangelization, catechesis, and formation of their parish community. In these scenarios the Missioner will have at least monthly reconnections with the main Missioners Community.

***How do I get started?*** Pray and discuss this opportunity with your Pastor and/or Spiritual Director. If you feel you may be called to serving with the Missioners of Christ, you can begin the inquiry/application process by emailing [XTmissions@missioners.org](mailto:XTmissions@missioners.org) or calling us at (757) 424-8774. You can also go straight our website [www.missioners.org/missions](http://www.missioners.org/missions) to get the process started.

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***All applications must be received by May 15<sup>th</sup> to qualify for service beginning in the upcoming summer***