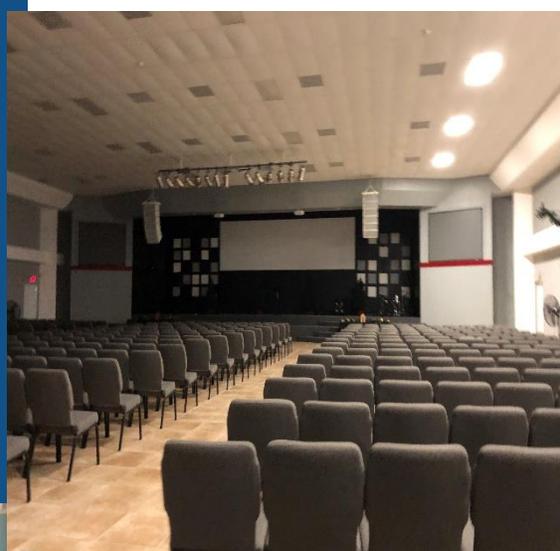


# Saint Luke Parish 2019 Mission Trip Puerto Rico

June 29 - July 5<sup>th</sup>



experience **MISSION**

### To Participate.

You need to provide a \$200 Non-Refundable Deposit before February 5, 2019 and \$400 for the airline ticket by March 1, 2019 (made out to St. Luke Parish). Fundraising monies will be split evenly between the teens and Nina. Any additional monies will then be split between the additional adult chaperones who personally fundraise as well.



About Experience Mission

# Mobilizing Volunteers

**Inviting people of all ages to encounter change, build real relationships, and serve.**

Mobilizing volunteers is about bringing people together from diverse cultures and backgrounds to serve in partnership toward a common goal. We accomplish this primarily through our short-term mission trip program where volunteer teams help with practical projects to serve people in under-privileged communities. We've found when people step outside of their comfort zone to focus on others 3 great things can happen.



## Relationships

When people work together to complete a project, they naturally connect with others in meaningful ways. We can often become so focused on accomplishing a task that we view human interaction as an unnecessary distraction, but at EM we've found these interactions can be the most meaningful outcome of a mission trip.

Yes, we seek to offer practical assistance, but entering into someone's struggle and listening to their story brings hope in ways that go beyond repairing a roof or painting a house. In fact, volunteers on EM mission trips often come away feeling more than anything else that they learned something from the people they're serving. This mutual giving and receiving can lead to incredible impact while upholding the dignity of everyone involved.



## Realizations

As volunteers serve and build relationships in a culture and environment totally different from their daily lives, they begin to see the world through new eyes. We witness this time and again, as we walk alongside thousands of people going through this journey. People grow closer to God as he works in their hearts and enables them to see the world through the lens of others.

When you enter into a mission trip not as a "savior" but as a listener and learner, it can revolutionize the way you see the world around you and renew your vision to live your mission at home.



## Resources

There is a lack of resources in every community where EM volunteers serve, and by giving generously of their time and money, team members help fulfill this need. A portion of the money raised by each volunteer goes directly toward completing local projects and employing local people. And it doesn't end there. Volunteers often continue to support the local community through financial contributions long after they leave. Over time we've seen that communities where we serve are improved immensely by access to resources gained through the help of volunteer teams.



## Developing Leaders

**At the heart of every major change is a figure or group who refines a vision and inspires a community.**

From our homes, to our families, to our local communities and our world as a whole, there's no denying that our future is shaped by our leaders. So inasmuch as we are committed to mobilizing volunteers today, we are equally committed to raising up leaders for tomorrow.

At Experience Mission, when we talk about leadership we're not just talking about those who take charge or lead a group. We're talking about using our influence to promote positive change. Not everyone is meant to be a "leader" in the traditional sense, but we all have influence. Our goal is to equip young people around the world to step into the spaces where they have influence and take action to serve others. We believe everyone has the potential to grow into this kind of leader.



### Human Worth

Because our goal is to train people to lead in a way that benefits others, we begin with the assumption that every single person has value and an innate need to understand their own self worth. All of our programs are designed to help people see the value in those around them regardless of race, culture, socio-economic background or any other classification. Our goal is to instill a sense of the value of all human beings in every future leader.



### Responsibility

Leadership is not a one-time gift that some people get and others don't; rather it's a learned habit cultivated over time. We've found when we give people real responsibility and equip them for success, they often surprise us with their ingenuity and resolve, and in the process they grow and mature into outstanding leaders who make the world around them a better place. Our interns and IMMERSION team members are required to work hard, make tough decisions, overcome challenges, and partner with people from a wide variety of backgrounds. They often consider their time in these programs as some of the most challenging and rewarding of their lives.



# Empowering Communities

**When sustainable change occurs in a community, it most often begins from within.**

Sustainable change succeeds when there is a sober awareness of the local struggles and a homegrown vision for the future. The community recognizes the barriers that stand in their way and finds ownership in their treatment of these problems.

There are terrific challenges in each of the under-served communities where we work: poverty, economic turmoil, and government corruption being among the most common. In the face of these challenges, many people are unfairly oppressed. The "haves" control the "have-nots" and perpetuate cycles of injustice that promote inequity. We're not talking about people who are lazy or inept. We're talking about ordinary, hard-working people who find themselves in need not because of anything they've done but simply because of the situation into which they were born.

It's a long process, but we've found that connecting local leaders with relationships and resources is a great place to start, and we've seen how these connections have helped to empower the communities where we serve.

LESS



## Meaningful Work

EM staff and community partners constantly come face to face with people living in poverty who feel powerless to change their lives for the better. Ultimately, our goal is to empower them to take control of their own lives. Everyone should have the opportunity for meaningful work to build a decent life for themselves and their families, and our vision for Community Empowerment is to help real people gain the resources and relational support they need to move into a place of strength.



## Local Vision

The truth is that, in every under-served community, poverty and the challenges that come with it are extremely complex. There aren't easy solutions, so our strategy is always to connect with local leaders who know the community firsthand and are striving to help those around them. We work with them to understand their vision for their community, and we seek to utilize our network to help as we can.

Experience Mission was founded in 2003



### Company Overview

Experience Mission is a non-profit organization demonstrating God's love throughout the world by empowering communities, developing leaders through Immersion programs and internships, and mobilizing volunteers on short-term mission trips.



### Products

1-2 week Short-Term Mission Trips

1-6 month IMMERSION Mission Trips



### Mission

When we look around us, it's easy to see that things are not as they should be. There is a growing disparity of wealth and resources, relationships are being divided across cultural and racial structures, people are yearning for change...

At Experience Mission we believe that our job as Christians is to be people of hope in the midst of hopelessness. We seek to live out this message of hope by empowering local communities, raising up leaders to develop and refine their community visions, and mobilizing volunteers to come and experience this powerful change taking place. We believe that hope is the driving force behind healthy change. Come join us in spreading this life giving hope that God promises.

**Cost: \$795 Per Person Not Including Airfare. Estimated Total Per Person = \$1450.00**

**Per Person Price does include sleep/shower accommodations, meals and ground transportation to and from the airport and to and from the worksites.**

### **Typical Agenda:**

Saturday: Arrival, dinner, orientation, free time at the housing facility.

Sunday: Attend church with some of our partners, lunch, head to the beach with local church members, dinner, evening gathering

Monday through Thursday:

Breakfast

Worksites

Lunch break (at worksite)

Worksites

Afternoon coffee break (with local homeowners)

Dinner

Evening Gathering

Free Time

Friday:

Head home

## **Puerto Rico June 29- July 5, 2019**

In late September 2017, Hurricane Maria whipped through the U.S. island territory of **Puerto Rico** with tornado-level winds, drenching the island with intense flooding, crippling communications, and decimating countless homes. With the whole island affected, the relief and recovery efforts have been slow to start and will be needed on a massive scale.

As soon as news of this disaster started spreading across the media, we began getting inquiries from our wonderful teams and volunteers about how they could help, so we will be bringing as many teams as possible to Puerto Rico all throughout 2018 and 2019, including spring break mission trips. If you are looking for an opportunity to have a tangible impact on the lives of real people in need, then this is a great trip for your group.

Teams going to Puerto Rico with Experience Mission will be focusing mostly on rebuilding. At the heart of who we are and what we do, we desire teams to connect with locals and build relationships with the people they are serving. In Puerto Rico this will happen naturally at work sites as there will be local Puerto Ricans serving alongside your teams.

The cost is \$795 per person and that includes all of your food, lodging & materials for projects that we will plan and organize for your team. It does *not* include your airfare to Puerto Rico (which is an additional expense for your team) but it does include ground transportation while you are there.

The church has been at work in the community and God is so present. Our partners have identified a small section of homes called the "Hormiga Project," which is a small squatter village in Dorado. There are 32 homes in disrepair, all needing major work, but ineligible for Federal Aid because families are unable to document their ownership of the homes despite years of residency in these homes.

Last year's teams spent the summer recovering three homes in the community and I was so encouraged to hear of the relational connections that were also shared. The gospel is shown in tangible ways and reconciliation between neighbors has been so present throughout the last year. If you come next summer, your team will have opportunities to connect with the community, share meals, and work directly alongside residents of La Hormiga Project.

The recovery process has been slow for Puerto Rico, but the people are strong and it's so exciting to see the ways that God has worked through this storm. The work that you will contribute to in Puerto Rico will be invaluable in the efforts to rebuild a community so devastated by Hurricane Maria, but I truly believe that the experience has the potential to be so life-changing both for your team and for the individuals you will encounter in Dorado.

We're still finalizing the housing plans, as we have some exciting opportunities to move into a larger facility that are still being finalized. It's typically "bunkhouse" style with some common areas for meetings, meals, and recreation (i.e. soccer, basketball, volleyball, etc).

## **Answers to my questions:**

Typically, we say high school and older (14+) but we make exceptions on a case by case basis

We don't have a mandatory number of chaperones (generally recommend 7:1 for high school). We do require you to have at least one person 21+ if you have anyone under 18.

You will not combine with any other groups (it's possible you may share lodging/meals). For some job sites, we might break your team into two groups if the homes you are working on are small.

Teams typically stay at a local church that has "bunkhouse" style lodging available on site. This is also where your meals will be served. Showers will also be available there.

Females and Males are separated for sleep arrangements.

As of right now, it looks like it would be you and a group of 25!

There are so many great beaches in the area! Typically, teams get to go to one on Sunday afternoons. Beyond that, there typically isn't too much time in the week for excursions.

The sleep site is about an hour from the airport!

The work sites are about 15-20 minutes from the sleep site.

All transportation is included! Local representatives will meet you at the airport and get you where you need to go.

There are several hospitals and emergency rooms within 15 to 20 minutes.

All meals are provided. Gluten free/nut allergies are a bit more tricky to provide in PR compared to some communities. We do recommend those with dietary restrictions subsidize some of their own meals with protein bars, etc. of their choice just because there are limited options available in the community.

You need to bring sleeping bags, yes. I do not believe you will need air mattresses, but I can confirm a bit closer!

## **More Company Info. Reviews and Photos**

<https://experiencemission.org/mission-trips/>

Instagram – [experiencemission](#) or [#experiencemission](#)

Facebook - [Experience Mission](#)

**PUERTO RICO MISSION!!**

**Our Fundraising Plans & Dates for your Calendar**

**Group Funding Website – Go Fund Me – Nina 2/6/19**

**Business Sponsorship Letter – Susanne, Dani, Olivia, Jane 2/8/19**

**Identify Businesses – Nina and Merielle Michalopoulos**

**March 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Pulpit Talks – Need Volunteers**

5pm \_\_\_\_\_

7:45am \_\_\_\_\_

9:30am \_\_\_\_\_

11:15am \_\_\_\_\_

**March 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Fundraiser: Crispy Kreme Doughnut Sales & Cinnamon Bun Sale after Sunday Masses**

In Charge: Evette Booth Crispy Kremes, \_\_\_\_\_ Cinnamon Buns,

**April 6<sup>th</sup> Fundraiser: Murder Mystery Dinner**

In Charge: Sciortinos, Schuloks, Mullins, Booths & Michalopoulos'

**April 18<sup>th</sup> Crispy Kreme Delivery (hopefully)**

**May 5<sup>th</sup> Fundraiser: Car Wash & Clothing Drive**

In Charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Car Wash & Evette Booth- Clothing Drive

**May 4<sup>th</sup> Prom-A-Thon**

**May 11<sup>th</sup> Taste of the Town**

**May 19<sup>th</sup> Pancake Breakfast 7am-12pm**

**Meetings:**

Writing Letters - Wednesday **February 6<sup>th</sup> 4:30-6pm**

Planning Meeting for Fundraisers – Wednesday **February 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm**