

## **St. James High School Mission Trip 2010 Receive-Grow Give**

As you may have heard, we are hoping the 2010 High School Mission trip will bring us all the way to Guatemala! The trip to Guatemala will take place in July, 2010 (firm dates not yet set). The trip will last nine days.

This trip will be lead by Mr. Kico Gandara. He will accompany us throughout the trip. Kico grew up in Guatemala and now lives in Madison (we met when our sons played football together in 7th and 8th grades). The connection with Kico was made when St. James member, Mary Feldt, who has accompanied Kico on Rotary Trips to Guatemala, thought we might consider a mission trip to Kico's Ranch.

Though the cost of this trip may be more, in meeting with Kico and others from St. James, we felt this was a wonderful cross-cultural opportunity for you.

The purpose of the trip, of course, is to share Jesus' love in many ways. There are many service projects we could choose from: there are four rural schools nearby, churches that need bathrooms built or pews refinished, there is landscaping work to do, or building water filters. The list goes on.

But we will also receive from the people there – learning how they live, the struggles they face, and how their faith strengthens and enriches their daily lives. Relationships will be made, and in the giving and receiving we will grow together in Christ.

During our time there, we will stay at *Kico's Ranch*: <http://www.kicosranch.com>

We will be able to have up to 40 people on the trip. All meals are provided, and the ranch even comes with its own swimming pool! There will also be many recreational activities that we can to choose from: swimming in the ocean (5 kilometers away), hiking a volcano, seeing an African safari, visiting Antigua, and more.

The final cost has not yet been determined, but we are estimating that the flight (from Chicago) will be around \$350 and lodging/meals about the same (less than half the costs for guests). When all the costs are put together we will probably be in the \$850 - \$1,000 range per person.

A passport is required (but no visas).

In years past, our youth have raised \$3,000 - \$5,000 to help offset the costs. It is up to us as to how much, or little, fundraising we wish to do. We also hope to offer some financial assistance upon request.

At this time we are offering **30** spots to high school youth. They will be filled on a first come basis. We will hold these spots open for the next two weeks, then the trip we be made available to other St. James members as well.

## **2010 St. James High School Mission Trip Team**

*Because we are currently without a staff person to oversee Youth Ministry, I will serve as the staff contact for this trip. However, I will need a youth and parents to JOIN A MISSION TRIP TEAM in order to proceed. The team will meet to help plan the trip (services projects and recreational activities, worship events, devotions, etc) and organize and run the fundraisers. I will meet with you.*

Please discuss with your parents/youth about your desire to participate in this mission trip. Remember, this is not a vacation to a beautiful location, but it is a time to gather to grow in our faith by helping others and receiving love from them.

Here's what you can do now IF YOU ARE INTERESTED:

1. If you are in 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade and plan to participate, please email Pastor Peter Narum, [pnarum@stjamesverona.org](mailto:pnarum@stjamesverona.org) as soon as possible.
2. If parents are interested in being chaperones (I've already heard from a number of you!) let me know as well.

*(Don't worry – if 80 people are interested, we'll just take two trips!)*

Spots will be reserved for St. James members first. However, if you have a friend who is also interested, please let me know.

3. If you are interested, let me know if you are, or are not, interested in being a part of the Mission Trip Planning Team. I need at least 6-8 people.
4. Your indication of interest means you agree to participate in fundraising events and group meetings, and sign a Covenant of Conduct.
5. Details of the trip, including costs and dates will be communicated after the Planning Team meets (along with Terry Gandara – Kico is currently in Guatemala for five weeks) together to discuss the trip.