



AIM Nicaragua



June 20 – 28, 2020
July 30 - August 6, 2020



Dear Missionary,

You are going to embark on a journey that will change your life forever! This trip is a direct request from God to “Go into ALL THE WORLD and preach the Gospel.” This is not an experience to be taken lightly. Remember: this is not a vacation. You are not going to be fun seekers. You are not going as just “teenagers” but as missionaries. You are attending this trip as a unified team. You are going with the Holy Spirit and the power he has given you. Do not underestimate what you are capable of! God is calling you to this trip. The fruit of your labor in fundraising will be seen in the 8 days you are in Nicaragua. However, you must prepare yourself ahead of time. Prepare by doing devotions and engaging in personal prayer time. If you do that here and now, we will see incredible miracles while you are in country. We believe God is going to do amazing things in you and through you. Be open to what God will speak to you on this trip. Be sure to have a willing attitude to whatever God wants to do through you. Let’s make this an AMAZING trip for God’s Glory!

We are so proud of each of you!

Spencer & Lauren
Speed District Youth
Directors





Greetings from King's Castle Ministries in Nicaragua!

We are excited that you are interested in bringing a team to work with us here in Nicaragua. We are passionate about reaching all the children of this nation for Jesus, but we need help! We know your time here will be a huge blessing to us, to the children and youth, and to the local churches. Our prayer and desire is that through this missions trip, not only will the people of Nicaragua be blessed, but also your team... that God impacts your team in such a way they will return with a new fire and passion for ministry and missions.

We are able to host teams any time of the year, so anytime that works for you, will work for us. Once you arrive, your team will be joined by a team of our national staff who will work with you the entire trip. The main focus for most ministry teams that come here is doing evangelism on the streets and in schools using our King's Castle outreach programs. This helps us accomplish our goal of reaching all the children of Nicaragua, but it also helps us grow the ministry by encouraging the local churches to continue reaching their communities for Christ.

During your first full day here, we will train your team in all the ministry songs and dramas that we'll use during the week. If you would like, you are also able to bring any materials for songs or dramas in Spanish. Our national team will plan the ministry sites for each day to coordinate with cooperating churches so the children, teens, and adults who respond can be properly followed up.

We conduct street crusades and school assemblies, as well as visit orphanages and hospitals, utilizing songs with movements, dramas and comical skits. We typically visit about four sites each day, depending on how well we are received and how far we must travel to each location. One option is to work with teams of Castle warriors across the country in local Assemblies of God churches where we sleep away from the training center on the floor in churches and other safe places, and pay particular attention to food preparation to protect the health of our guests. The second option is to base out of our Ministry Training Campground and work with churches in and around Managua. Our campground has two separate dorms for girls and guys with comfortable bunk beds. A real missions outreach is difficult enough, so we work at making it a positive experience for all. You can let me know if you have a particular preference. Otherwise, we will send you where we deem there is the greatest need.

May God bless you as you make your preparations for a great ministry experience here in Nicaragua!

Steve & Kim Sobey

Handwritten signature of Steve Sobey.

STUFF to KNOW and BRING

King's Castle Nicaragua

Nicaragua, Central America: Land of Lakes and Volcanoes. Nicaragua is the largest country in Central America according to land mass. Managua is the second most populated city in Central America (behind Guatemala City).

Climate: Two seasons: rainy season from May to mid-November and dry season from mid-November to April. The temperature varies between hot and hotter. :)

Language: Spanish. Many of the national teams with whom North Americans will be working speak some English. However, all ministry is conducted in Spanish. We provide each team with an interpreter.

Dress: The culture of Central America is more conservative than that in many churches in North America. Shorts are generally not accepted except as athletic attire, at the beach, or as pajamas. Earrings and extreme hair styles on men are not acceptable in Central America. Men do not wear their hair to their shoulders. Do not bring expensive or sentimental jewelry or watches.

MEN on Ministry Team: Wear pants or jeans and ministry T-shirts. Shorts may be worn at camp during free time and during free day. No piercings.

LADIES on Ministry Team: Wear skirts below the knee length and ministry T-shirts. Bike shorts are recommended under the ladies' skirts for modesty during the active mimes and dramas. Do not bring dresses since they will be too hot with T-shirts over them. Pants, jeans, and modest shorts may be worn at camp or beach. No piercings other than ear rings.

Vaccinations: No shots are required to enter Nicaragua, but we advise checking with your local health center.

Airport/Airlines Information: Entry: Managua "Augusto C Sandino Airport" (Airport Code: MGA)

On the final flight into Managua, the flight attendants should give each traveler a Customs & Immigration Form. The form will ask name, birth date, and passport information. When it asks for purpose of visit, just check "tourism." Near the bottom, it will ask for "Foreseen Address" and you will need to fill in:

Castillo del Rey - Km 10.8 Carretera Vieja a Leon, Managua. Then there are a series of questions about what you are bringing in. They are asking you about things that you are importing for sale, or new goods on which no import duty has been paid. Each traveler can bring up to \$1,000 in new goods, so there should be no problem. No traveler has to declare his personal clothing or belongings. The next section asks about fresh fruits, vegetables and meats. In that section, you check "NO" for all questions. On the back of the form it asks some health questions. Please do not mark that you are sick or suffer from fever or other problems. It will ask for a contact on the back of the form, you can just put Castillo del Rey and our main office number 2265-4873. Keep that form until the last step to leave the building.

Upon arrival in Managua, de-plane and follow the signs and/or crowd toward Immigration. The flow of traffic will lead you downstairs to Immigration. You can get in any line available. Once it's your turn, hand the agent your passport, your immigration form, and \$10 for the tourist visa. He should just scan your passport, stamp it and then you are set to go.

Around the corner to the right is the baggage claim and your luggage might already be coming out. Sometimes they like to take the baggage off the conveyer belt, so if you do not see your luggage right away, look for it on the floor. If your bag is delayed, there is a counter against the back wall where you can make a claim. Once you get to the baggage area, you can look to your left and you'll probably see our team on the other side of the glass.

You will have to present your customs form to the agent in the final screening area. Follow the crowd around to the screening area and you'll have to put your luggage on the x-ray machine. We will be waiting inside the glass area so head there so we can re-group before going outside to load up the bus.

WHAT TO BRING:

- ✓ A heart prepared for ministry. Please do not come if you are not saved. The spiritual warfare is very intense. Ministry will begin within hours of your arrival in Nicaragua, so pray before arrival.
- ✓ A valid passport; no visa is required with a USA passport. However, when you arrive at the Managua airport, you will have to buy a tourist card (\$10 per person/good for up to 90 days upon request.) If you have a passport from a country other than the USA please see your local consulate for obtaining a visa prior to travel. (We recommend making a copy of everyone's passport before coming to Nicaragua.)
- ✓ Minors are required to have a notarized statement from both parents giving permission for international travel to Nicaragua. The team leader must be endowed with responsibility for the minor while in Nicaragua.
- ✓ Medical Insurance (through Assemblies of God World Missions).
- ✓ A water bottle/jug/mug with a lid. We will have clean drinking water available at all times, but you need your own bottle to be able to fill throughout the day. *If your team would like to bring down a 5-gallon water cooler, it would be a tremendous blessing for the ministry. We use them for every team and they are very expensive in Nicaragua.
- ✓ 1 container of powdered Gatorade per person
- ✓ 1 jar of peanut butter per every 3 people on the team
- ✓ Small prizes/toys for giving away at programs (150-200 per bus)
- ✓ Bubbles, frisbees, soccer balls, jump ropes, balloons/pump for playing with the kids.
- ✓ Candy to give away at each program (10,000 pieces per bus) *If you would rather send money to purchase candy here instead of paying airline fees to bring it, please let us know so we can make arrangements before you get here.
- ✓ Must-have personal items include: BIBLE, journal, flashlight, sun screen, wet-wipes, pocket size toilet paper, bug spray, sunglasses, towels/wash cloths, flip-flops, hand sanitizer, Imodium A-D, Pepto-Bismo, etc.
- ✓ Tennis shoes for ministry and for walking. Sandals are cooler, but they become quite uncomfortable on long walks in gravel or on rough terrain and are unsafe for ministry. You'll be doing lots of jumping around!
- ✓ A light-weight sleeping bag, sheets and a pillow. Air mattresses are nice. Please consider donating your sleeping bag at the end of your trip to our Master's Commission.
- ✓ A lightly-packed suitcase. Extra large suitcases take up too much space on the bus. You will only need a couple of your own outfits for travel, free day and for training day. The other days will be in ministry shirts that we wash each day. No laundry facilities available except for the ministry t-shirts.
- ✓ A modest swim suit (no bikinis/Speedos). Modest tankinis are allowed for girls. It is recommended to bring board shorts or just shorts to wear with your swimming suit. A cover-up to/from the water is necessary for guys and girls.
- ✓ Face-paint. The kids LOVE when teams bring face paint. For most kids here it will be first time to ever have anyone draw something on their faces.
- ✓ Cash for souvenirs (as your budget allows). Traveler's checks are impossible to change. Dollars are accepted in most places, but no bills over \$20. We can assist in exchanging dollars to Cordobas. Credit cards are accepted in some places, but might come with international fees.
FYI: Current exchange rate: C\$ 33 Nicaragua Cordobas = US\$ 1 US Dollar (Fall 2019).
- ✓ Each team member should have our contact info while in the country for emergency purposes:
Steve Sobey: +505 8271-1901, Kim Sobey: +505 8271-1902, Castillo del Rey office: +505 2265-4873.
- ✓ *If you would like to bring down any of your supplies in plastic containers to leave behind, it would be a huge blessing for the ministry. Plastic containers are very expensive in Nicaragua.



Registration Process

Step 1: Brushfire Registration/Paper Form

Inform your youth pastor that you would like to attend AIM – Nicaragua. Give your YP your full name (*must include middle name*), birthday, t-shirt size, and emergency contact.

Step 2: Managed Missions

You will be sent an email from Managed Missions. This is where you will complete your profile, update your food and medication info, and keep track of your funds raised. You will have a personalized link that allows you to send to your family and friends to donate towards your trip cost.

Step 3: Payments

- Deposit #1: \$100 || 12.5.19
- Payment #2: \$350 || 1.16.20
- Payment #3: \$350 || 3.19.20
- Payment #4: \$350 || 5.7.20
- Payment #5: \$350 || 6.4.20

Managed Missions will send you a personalized link to share with family and friends who would like to give toward your trip cost. As you raise funds, you will complete payment through your link as well.

Step 4: Upload Notarized Forms || Due 4.2.20

Download the official AIM packet to be completed by you or your legal guardian (if under 18).
Minor: Requires a notarized signature from both parents.
Adults: Requires witnessed signature from your pastor & a signed background check affidavit.
You will upload your forms to your trip profile. || Must contain all pages of the packet - not just pages you complete.

Step 5: Upload Passport Info || Due 4.30.20

Acquiring a passport is typically not a fast process so begin the application immediately.
DO NOT MISS THIS DATE. You will be at risk of losing your flight reservation if you do not have a passport by this date.

Costs Include

Costs Include

1. Three meals a day while on the trip (travel days not included)
2. Lodging and Airfare
3. All transportation in country
4. Comprehensive insurance policy for each participant
5. Entrance and exit fees (if applicable)
6. NTYM AIM t-shirt & AIM Journal



“10 Commandments of Missions Trips.” Nicaragua 2020

1. **DO NOT** start, nurture, cultivate any dating relationship on the trip.
2. **THE W'S** - Don't ask the missionary what, when, where (You are to go and do anything needed).
3. **EAT EVERYTHING** on your plate (Do not complain about the food whatsoever).
4. **PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED** in all dances/dramas.
5. **NEVER GO ANYWHERE** without two other people.
6. **RESPECT** all leadership.
7. **CLEAN UP** after yourself everywhere you go.
8. **VOLUNTEER** to help before being asked.
9. **PRAYER** every night & throughout your trip.
10. **DO NOT FLUSH** the toilet paper.



AIM Participation Scholarship

The Mark McGrath AIM Participation Scholarship is for new full time undergraduate on campus SAGU students that have participated in an approved District or National Ambassadors in Missions (AIM) trip. Only AIM trips taken while a student is enrolled in high school are eligible for a scholarship.

- **District Led:** \$1,000 per trip
- Students are eligible for up to \$5,000 during their time as a SAGU Student