

Costa Rica MISSION 2012

**“I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you – or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.”
(Rom. 1:11–12)**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

MORNING: Pray for our team as we head out to places unknown – that all along the journey, we may strengthen one another through the Spirit and encourage one another in faith. May we pause as we move through every door today, giving thanks and knowing that Jesus has passed through before us preparing our way.

EVENING: As our team goes to sleep tonight, pray that our hearts may be open toward those we’ll meet this week: that together we may grow in Christ because we have walked together.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

MORNING: “Each day God calls us to stretch a little further, search a little deeper, and become a little freer.” As our team explores a new country and culture today, pray that we may be open to learning that might in some way be life-changing, heart-changing and attitude changing.

EVENING: “Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.” (Revelation 3:20) Pray for our team this week as we find ourselves at dining tables very unlike ours at home. We’ll be eating with strangers and sometimes eating strange food. Pray that these times will be moments of sacred community – holy experiences of the table of God.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

MORNING: The first day of work awaits our team in this foreign land. Pray that throughout this day we will knock on the many strange doors we encounter, trusting in God to lead us through. May we be courageous to enter that which we may most fear, that in entering, we may grow.

EVENING: As our team members share the experiences of the first day, pray that we may encourage and strengthen each other; that we may find healing for the frustrations we’ve experienced and hope for the new day to come. Pray that we remember that God holds each one of us by the hand and leads us forward through the doorway of tomorrow. Because of that, we can be strong and courageous wherever we go (Joshua 1:9).

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

MORNING: Pray that our team would practice grace-filled listening today; focused and attentive disciplined listening. Pray for the Spirit to facilitate our hearing over the language and cultural barriers and for patient engagement with everyone we meet. May our compassionate listening extend to our team members as well.

EVENING: As we reflect over the days distractions – that which kept us from fully listening and hearing one another, pray that we would be gentle on ourselves and on each other. May we give grace and blessed encouragement, looking toward another day of leaning into the experience of the week God has prepared for us, sharing faith and offering Christ-centered hospitality.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

MORNING: “Knock, and the door will be opened for you.” (Luke 11:9) Hump day is here. Almost always by mid week on a mission trip, close living quarters, strange schedules, long days, inconsistent sleep start to test grace. Pray that our team will turn fully toward the One who is the source of all spiritual fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. May we knock fervently on God’s heart’s door seeking help for the work that lies before us.

EVENING: As this day closes, and we share with each other the joys and challenges of the week so far, pray that we will encourage one another even as we seek to encourage and strengthen our Costa Rican hosts. Pray that we may be willing to open our hands and hearts to more fully receive God’s love as shared between us.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

MORNING: We sense the end of our time in Costa Rica drawing to a close. Uncompleted projects loom before us, temptations rise up before us to prioritize tasks over people. Pray that we will stay committed to the work of loving, listening, encouraging, and joyfully sharing in God together. What a blessing and privilege this time is! May we lean into the wonder of the day.

EVENING: We’re standing between two worlds. Missing home and growing more comfortable with our new surroundings. Although soon we’ll physically leave behind this place, what will we take in our hearts with us to share back home? Where have our previously held beliefs and truths become challenged and changed? What new truths is God seeking to implant in the soil of our hearts? May we listen and receive God’s wisdom as it knocks on the doors of our hearts.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

MORNING: Pray for our team’s last full day in Costa Rica: that throughout the day we would be intentional about “slipping notes” of God’s grace, blessing and love to all we meet and that we would be open to the ways God may be slipping notes back to us. May we never forget the immense depth of God’s love for us – a message God is constantly trying to get through to the bottom of our hearts. And may we never forget that in every circumstance and in every relationship, God seeks to speak that same message through us to another.

EVENING: As our team gathers for one last time together, we’ll be slipping notes of gratitude and joy for the blessings we’ve been to and for each other. Pray that this time will be a holy time, infused with God’s presence. May the moments of this week be written on our hearts forever and may we have the courage to live as people changed by the power of Christ.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

Morning: Pray for travelling mercies for our team as we head home. May we pause in every doorway, thanking God for new challenges, new friendships, new learnings and new growth; blessing the spaces we leave behind and blessing the spaces we enter anew.