



SHARE PROVIDE
FAITH HOPE

DEMONSTRATE AND
LOVE GO



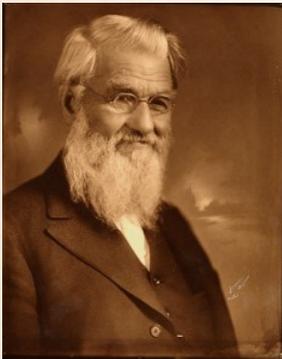
Serving Through Buckner Missions:

We focus on the details while
you focus on the ministry.



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WHO WE ARE



Buckner International began in 1879 and has been transforming lives through hands-on ministry, serving the most vulnerable from the beginning to the end of life. Buckner is one of the oldest and most unique faith-based social service organizations of its kind, serving hundreds of thousands of people each year. What started as one man with a heart for children has now expanded to numerous ministry sites located throughout Texas and the world.

OUR FOCUS MINISTRIES

Our Focus Ministries are the four key areas where Buckner has the greatest impact on the people we serve:

1. Foster Care and Adoption
2. Family Transition Programs
3. Family Hope Centers
4. Buckner Senior Living



BUCKNER MISSIONS

Buckner Missions seeks to serve the most vulnerable through the engagement and mobilization of the Christian community by sharing our **FAITH**, providing **HOPE** and demonstrating **LOVE**.



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FAMILY HOPE CENTERS

The biggest benefit to serving with Buckner lies with the ability to partner with our 25 Family Hope Centers located throughout the world in 8 different countries. Our Family Hope Centers provide services to fragile families to sustain and strengthen them so that redemptive transformation is able to flourish. This is accomplished through 4 main aspects of ministry:

1. **Case Management:** to assess the needs of the family and connect them to the appropriate services and resources.
2. **Financial Empowerment:** including job skill training and income-generating activities. Client assistance, which includes temporary food provision, clothing, temporary housing assistance or housing construction assistance.
3. **Spiritual Enrichment:** because we feel spiritual enrichment and fulfillment is so important in life, we offer access to Christian discipleship opportunities, faith-centered sports camps, and Vacation Bible Schools.
4. **Health Services:** including medical screenings, dental and optical services.





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WHAT WE OFFER

When you serve internationally with Buckner Missions, you have the freedom to focus on the ministry aspect while we handle all the details.

SAFE: Your security is our priority. We rely on the latest on-the-ground information. Every precaution and plan is made to ensure your safety.

SIMPLE: Our straightforward, personalized service provides a clear, easy and direct route to mission work.

STRATEGIC: Our local leadership works with families to identify critical needs which allows you to engage in meaningful ministry.

SUSTAINABLE: Your mission trip will come to an end, but the ministry will continue through Buckner Family Hope Centers where dedicated professionals work with families and individuals to promote their strengths and help them grow emotionally, physically and spiritually.

Every Buckner Mission Trip includes the following:

- Designated Buckner Missions Coordinator to handle all the details
- Airfare, ground transportation, lodging and food
- Secondary emergency medical and property insurance
- Interpreters to serve alongside you in ministry
- Cultural activities or sight-seeing events
- Trained Buckner staff trip leader
- Orientation materials and cultural preparation
- On-call staff to help 24 hours a day while traveling
- Embassy registration and visa processing
- Dedicated in-country Buckner staff to travel with you for the duration of the trip
- Debrief material



BUCKNER®

Hope shines here.®

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WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

All of our mission trips aim to fulfill specific needs that are given to us by our NGO staff, and the requests vary from year to year. Some of the ways teams have served in our Family Hope Centers in the past have included:

- Discipleship classes
- Educational programs
- Block parties
- Construction & repair projects
- Sports camps
- Hygiene classes
- Parenting classes
- Home garden projects
- Spa day for women in the community
- Nutritional classes
- English or Literacy classes
- Job skill training
- Vacation Bible Schools
- Distribution of humanitarian aid
- Healthcare clinics, dental, fluoride treatments & medical, treatment for parasites, blood pressure check, blood sugar check, diabetes
- Baking classes, cake decorating
- Carpenter classes, electrical repair or plumbing repair workshops
- Free haircuts and teaching local women how to cut hair (cosmetology)
- Water purification projects
- Building recreational facilities such as basketball courts, soccer fields, etc.
- Community development projects

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WHAT DOES THE PLANNING PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

FIRST...

- Prayerfully consider organizing a team from your church/group to serve with Buckner Missions

NEXT...

- Contact the Buckner Missions Office to discuss the different trip options.
- Review information about countries, possible dates and costs.
- Ready to move forward? Contact our office (214-388-1442 or missions@buckner.org) and a Buckner Missions Coordinator will be assigned to your group to get you started and to handle all of the logistics.

THEN...

- Your group will work with the Missions Coordinator to discuss the ministry options that would best suit your church and the NGO's needs, as well as forming the itinerary and trip budget.
- Your Buckner Missions Coordinator will make a trip flyer for your recruitment use.
- The Buckner Missions office will reserve international airfare for your team.
- Your Missions Coordinator will make all arrangements for your overseas travel (all in-country transportation, meals, lodging, interpreters, bottled water, secondary medical insurance, sightseeing and cultural events, country entry and exit fees, visa applications, and more).

WHAT DOES THE PLANNING PROCESS LOOK LIKE? (continued)

6-12 Months before Departure

- ⇒ Continue communication with Buckner Missions Coordinator concerning trip details
- ⇒ Hold an **interest meeting** at your church/group to recruit trip participants: Your Buckner Mission Coordinator will give you more guidance on planning this meeting and/or come to your location to lead it for you.
- ⇒ Plan to meet with your mission team regularly (monthly, bi-weekly, or weekly) to cover the following:
 - ⇒ **First Team Meeting** – Meeting date should be the deadline for applications and deposit from trip flyer; pray, introduce team, collect or remind team to submit paperwork, etc.
 - ⇒ **Team Building** games or projects to get to know one another
 - ⇒ **Orientation Meeting:** Buckner Orientation Materials will be provided. Your Buckner Missions Coordinator will visit your church or group to lead this meeting for you or by conference call if necessary.
 - ⇒ **Organize program for kids/families** “Program” = VBS, Sports Camp, Life Skills Training , Bible Studies, Construction or Medical Projects, etc.
 - ⇒ **Research** country and culture. Also consider going through “**Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions**” (by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert) with your team.
 - ⇒ **Debrief meeting(s)** post-trip to help your team members process everything they experienced on the mission trip.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is included in the cost?

Transportation: All travel within the country is included. **Accommodations:** Hotel accommodations with private bath, based on double-occupancy rooms. Single rooms are available at an additional cost. **Meals:** Three meals and bottled water provided daily. **Taxes, visas and service fees:** All entrance or exit fees, visa fees, portage, taxes, tips and service charges are included. **Translators:** Local translators are present. **Miscellaneous (varies by itinerary):** All scheduled cultural events, secondary medical insurance, limited property insurance, and administrative costs.

Items not included in the trip cost:

Cost of passport, baggage charges, optional excursions outside of the group sightseeing, additional soft drinks during meals, laundry, long distance phone calls, and all other items of a personal nature. International airfare to/from USA is not included in land trip cost. Buckner can arrange all airfare travel; cost confirmed date of booking.

Who are we spending all this ministry time with?

While there are many children living in orphanages, only about 5-6% of the world's orphans currently live in orphanages or institutions. Because of this, Buckner International NGOs focus on finding ways to strengthen local families with the goal of preventing child abandonment. Through a model we call Family Hope Centers, our mission teams are reaching out to the communities from which many orphaned children have come. Teams may also have the opportunity the spend time at an orphanage if there is one in the local vicinity.

What will we do when we get there?

For a full list of different ways that teams have served, see section titled "Ways To Be Involved" on page 5 of this packet.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (continued)

Where will we stay and what will we eat?

Buckner Mission Teams typically stay in pre-approved hotels and/or guesthouses and eat most meals in local restaurants. We can alter these plans to help cut the cost for your group if other secure accommodations are available.

How many people should be in my mission trip group and how long will we be there?

Buckner mission teams typically have 10-30 people and trips range from 5-14 days. If you would like a longer trip or to take more people, please feel free to discuss this with our missions staff.

When should we plan to go?

We can send groups year-round, with the exception of certain holidays depending on the destination country. Our missions staff will work with your church, school or group's calendar to find the best time for your team to travel.

How old do you have to be on go on a mission trip?

Potential trip members must be at least 12 years of age. Anyone 15 years old or older must complete a background check prior to traveling.

How do we find out how much the trip will cost?

Once we have tentative dates and a destination for you, your Buckner Missions Coordinator will build a trip budget specifically for your group to give you the most accurate cost possible for your country, group size, team activities and travel time frame. Typically, the land cost for an average trip (7 days, 15 people) to Latin America is around \$1,200, and to Africa is around \$1,700. This price fluctuates depending on the amount of people you have, and does not include airfare or excursions/tourism.

How does each mission trip volunteer sign up?

Our mission trip participant application will be made available to your team through our web site. Your team will be able to complete all of their information here, and will receive links to complete the background check and additional paperwork that is needed to travel.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (continued)

What happens if I get sick or hurt while I'm there?

Volunteer mission trip insurance is included in your trip cost and coverage provides for accidents, medical assistance and evacuation, and limited property insurance. Details of coverage will be included in the orientation manual or can be obtained by contacting our office.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Reservations, deposits, and payment:

All reservations must be made through the Buckner Mission Trip Application process, with a deposit payment of \$250 per person. Reservations will not be accepted by telephone. Final and full payment must be postmarked 30 days before trip. If final payment is not postmarked by that date, you risk losing your reservation. Remember that space is limited, so it is important that your final payment is made on time and your reservation is early.

Cancellation penalties:

All cancellations must be received in writing, either by mail, email or fax. If your written cancellation notice is emailed or postmarked more than 90 days prior to departure, you will pay the \$250 non-refundable deposit, plus any costs related to airfare. All airline ticket fares, fees and penalties are the responsibility of the mission trip volunteer. Typically, all tickets are non-refundable and non-transferrable; please ask your mission coordinator about purchasing travel cancellation insurance. The Missions staff will work with you and the airline to assist you in obtaining your airline credit information in the event of a cancellation, but Buckner is not responsible for your ticket cost or any other fees charges by the airline.

READY TO GET STARTED?

Buckner Missions

214-388-1442

missions@buckner.org