

Amazon River Mission Trip Orientation

Mission Trip Dates: February 18 to March 1, 2026 (Dates we leave from and arrive back in the U.S.)

Team Leader: Larry Creamer
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Sponsor Agency: Amazon Basin Ministries
713 Salisbury Dr.
Waco, TX 76712

General Information

Ministry on the River

Our team includes the ministries of a medical clinic, dental clinic, vision, and clean water. We welcome medical professionals who would like to join our team. We also have many opportunities for anyone who wants to come and engage with the people of the communities we serve with the purpose of helping people come to faith in Christ and grow in Christ. You may learn more at the Amazon Basin Ministries website:

<https://www.amazonbasinministries.org/>

This is the area where we work:

https://www.google.com/maps/place/Tabatinga,+State+of+Amazonas,+69640-000,+Brazil/@-4.2551627,-69.7756322,59619m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m1!1s0x91f2f16de7641e8b:0x41369b4b0be34a1d!2sTabatinga+-+State+of+Amazonas,+Brazil!3b1!8m2!3d-4.2314729!4d-69.9369981!16zL20vMDYxMHFk!3m5!1s0x91f2f1713fb3b635:0x4225cb7e3381ae25!8m2!3d-4.2314556!4d-69.9369359!16s%2Fg%2F11bc6wgbvt?entry=tту&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDMwNC4wIKXMDSOASAFQAw%3D%3D

We fly in to Leticia, drive into Tabatinga, get on the boat and go south and east of Tabatinga to the extend of about 40 miles down the Amazon.

Required Reading

The book, Successful Mission Teams: A Guide for Volunteers, by Martha VanCise is **REQUIRED READING** for everyone participating in this

mission trip. This book will answer the majority of questions you may have about mission trips or travel in general. Please feel free to contact the team leader with other questions you may have after reading this book. If you do not have access to this book, contact the team leader immediately.

Documentation

Passports

Everyone must have one. **Make sure your passport is valid through the end of the trip.**

Make four copies of the first page. Leave one at home, have one on your person, put the other two in different places in your luggage.

Visas

Brazil is in the process of reinstating the requirement for a visa for United States citizens. Detailed instructions will be provided for you at the proper time to make your application for a visa.

You will need to go to this website, complete the information, and pay the \$80 fee. <https://brazil.vfsevisa.com/>

You must wait until our airline tickets are purchased for this trip before you apply for the visa since that information is required for the application. All is done online, and the visa will be emailed to you.

Immunizations

Although there are no immunizations required for entry, there are several immunizations you need to have or make sure are up to date before you go to Amazonas. Therefore, you must consult with a travel medical professional to discuss the immunizations you should have before going to this area. Make sure to make this appointment at least three months before the scheduled departure.

Financial arrangements

Total Cost \$2700*

Due with Application September 1, 2025: \$600

Due October 1, 2025 \$700

Due November 1, 2025

\$700

Due December 1, 2025

\$700

Payments should be clearly marked for the Creamer 2026 Brazil Mission Trip. Checks should be made out to Amazon Basin Ministries, clearly marked for the Creamer 2026 Brazil Mission Trip, and sent to the attention of Stan Hanes, Amazon Basin Ministries, 713 Salisbury Drive, Waco, TX 76712.

The \$2700.00 amount covers, air travel from our city of departure, which is usually Chicago or Miami, to Brazil and back to that city, group transportation during the mission, lodging, meals, airport tax, and other ministry related expenses.

Additional expenses may include your air travel to and from your U.S. city of departure, and may include some meals, transportation for personal travel, bottled water, phone calls, and other personal purchases.

***The \$2700 cost does not include airfare to and from your airport of domestic departure to our airport of international departure (usually Miami or Chicago).**

Insurance

Health and Life Insurance for the trip are included in the cost of the trip. You need to provide the name of a beneficiary for the life insurance portion.

Travel

Travel arrangements will be made for you from our U.S. city of departure. (This has been Miami or Atlanta in the past but could be other major hubs such as Chicago or Dallas in the future.) You are responsible for making the arrangements to get to and from the U.S. city of departure. **Wait until you hear from the team leader before booking any flights on your own. At times we can get a package deal for the entire flight that is less expensive for you.**

The international flights will be booked by the middle of November 2025. Make sure to send in an updated application by that time so I will have the information I need to book the flight. If you have filled out an application previously you do not have to provide the references or the testimony portion.

Accommodations

With the possible exception of one night in a hotel at the end of the trip our home is a boat. The boat is an open-sided, two level boat with three community bathrooms (all

with toilet, sink and shower). Most of the team members will sleep in hammocks with mosquito nets which will be provided.

Food and Water

You should only drink bottled or filtered water. It is a good idea to always have some water with you. All of the water you will need will be provided for you on the boat.

Meals will be provided. The only exception will be while traveling to and from Brazil.

Code of Conduct

All team members are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner that will bring honor to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Constant consideration should be given to the fact that our every attitude and action will either advance or impede the work of the missionaries and the churches with whom we work.

If you have any question about a specific action or activity, ask the team leader or missionary first. Always realize that there may be cultural implications to your actions that you do not know about.

The possession or use of tobacco products or beverage alcohol is absolutely prohibited.

Please check with the team leader before posting about the trip on social media outlets or other online venues.

Working as a Team

As a volunteer, you are making a commitment to work with a team of people to help bring people to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to make disciples of those who accept Christ, and to encourage our Brazilian brothers and sisters in Christ. The whole team will be directed by a team leader who works under the direction of our area missionaries and/or local church leaders.

To be effective, you must be a team player. There are always fascinating things you will encounter whether you are a first time or veteran volunteer. Sometimes there are temptations to depart from a team assignment to pursue personal interests. This can be seriously counterproductive to the team effort.

Your decision to be involved in this mission team must include your commitment to be a productive part of the team effort. This will be a principal expectation of the missionaries, local leaders, and the team leader.

Guidelines for Dress

Modesty should always be a guiding factor in dress.

Wear comfortable, clean clothes that you don't mind getting dirty.

Do not wear expensive or expensive looking, watches, rings and other jewelry.

One cultural note for men, short pants are never appropriate when we are engaged in any aspect of our work but may be worn during leisure times.

Baggage Allowance

Due to the nature of our travel and accommodations you should pack as light as possible. We will be staying on a boat and getting to the boat may be via transportation with limited space. Storage space on the boat is limited. Take this into consideration as you pack.

Only trust someone else with your luggage at the clear direction of the missionary or team leader.

Do not take anything through customs for someone else.

Please feel free to use your extra luggage space to take things to the missionaries. Sometimes other people will want to send things with you to give the missionaries. If this is the case make sure you know exactly what you are taking. Clothing appropriate to a tropical climate to give away is also a good use of any extra luggage space. We often ask each team member to take some over-the-counter meds for the medical team and sometimes supplies for children's ministry.

You are always responsible for your luggage. Do not expect anyone else to carry or watch after your luggage. It is acceptable, for example, to ask a trusted team member to look after your carry-on baggage for a moment for a brief trip to the restroom at the airport or hotel. It is irresponsible and inconsiderate for you to ask someone to look after your luggage for any extended period of time (over 5 or 10 minutes).

When luggage is being transferred, for example, to a bus at the airport or from the bus to the boat, make sure you watch your luggage get loaded. Often the drivers or the boat staff will help with the loading in these instances. Once you visually verify that your luggage has been loaded you may board the bus or boat.

Packing Guidelines

One of the best pieces of advice in packing is quoted by Martha VanCise, "pack what you think you'll need and leave half behind." Chapter 9 of her book [Successful Mission](#)

Teams has many excellent suggestions.

Your Personal Testimony

At times your written personal testimony, translated into Portuguese may be one of the witnessing tools we use in Brazil. When this is the case, the testimony will be incorporated into a witnessing tract. You need to write your testimony of how you came to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. You need to do this in 300 words or less. Please have this written testimony to me with your application. Please provide this written copy of your testimony and when appropriate we will produce the tracts.

Prayer Partners

A requirement you must meet to be a part of the mission partnership team is to enlist a specific prayer partner. Doubtless as you have shared with the people around you, many have shared a desire or commitment to pray for you. It is good to have many people willing to pray for you. However, to make absolutely sure your ministry in Brazil is saturated with prayer, you need to specifically enlist an individual or a family who will make a specific commitment to pray for you regularly as you prepare to go on the trip and every day while you are in Brazil.

Working with Translators

Portuguese is the language spoken in Brazil. Especially for the first-time volunteers, don't worry about learning to speak the language. A few phrases which you can be taught as we travel will be sufficient to help you get by. Translators are an indispensable part of the work. One prayer request for your prayer partners is to pray for adequate translators.

You may want to bring some sort of small gift to give to your translator. This could include something like a nice ink pen or a book. If your translator is with you at mealtime make sure your team pays for the translator's meal. **Never give money to the translators, even as a gift. Their compensation is included in the price of the trip. To give them extra money creates an inequitable situation which will cause problems among the translators.**

There will not be enough translators for every person, at all times. Great effort will be made to always have a translator with each team. As a member of your team shares the gospel with a person through a translator use that time to lessen distractions or use the time to pray for your team member as they share, the translator, and the person receiving the witness.

When speaking through a translator use short, complete sentences. Many times the translator must know your complete thought before he or she can put those thoughts into a Portuguese sentence that makes sense. Don't tell jokes. Many jokes depend on a play

on words. Few of these will make sense when translated. When speaking or preaching, don't build your message on alliteration. For example you may have a message which uses the word "F.A.I.T.H. in which each letter stands for an aspect of faith. This would simply not work in Portuguese since the word for faith in Portuguese only has two letters.

If you are going to use an illustration, check it out with your translator first to make sure it will be relevant or will make sense.

A great rule of thumb is to keep things very simple. Ask yourself, to whom am I speaking? Avoid the temptation to teach or preach in such a way that you try to impress your North American teammates. Also keep in mind that your message will be twice as long because it has to be said in two languages.

The main thing to keep in mind is this: You are presenting the greatest message anyone could hear to people God passionately loves. Let the love of God flow through you and reach out to each person as a person. The connection will be made.

We have some witnessing tools we use to help with the language issue. You will be introduced to these during orientation and as we travel.

One important note in our work with the Ticuna people is that many times the translation will have to be from English to Portuguese to Ticuna. This makes all that is said above even more important to keep in mind—especially the part about keeping things simple.

You may direct your questions to:

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