LEVEL 2 TRIP (General Description):

Experience on a foreign field is not necessary, but evidence of experience with service/giving of self is a requirement (patterns of service = urban tutoring program, soup kitchen work, regular service at local church, etc.) Living/working conditions can be moderately uncomfortable. Basic skills for cross-cultural missions are reinforced. (Sharing testimonies, some door-to-door evangelism, ability and willingness to engage local community members, desire to serve children, etc.) Available to students currently in grades 9-12.

TRIP LEADERSHIP:

CHS Faculty

PROJECT/MINISTRY OVERVIEW:

Hope of Life International is a Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people in Guatemala, Central America. Guatemala is home to people severely affected by poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, and a need for the Gospel. In the mountains of Guatemala, it is often times the children who suffer the most. Infant mortality rate is overwhelming. Over 70% of children suffer from malnutrition, and as they age the likelihood that they will complete their education dwindles. The needs of these people are great.

To transform the country of Guatemala Hope of Life tries to satisfy their physical needs with nutritional food, education, and medical treatment for the children, elderly, babies and families. Hope of Life may then watch as the doors of their hearts are opened to the truth of the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ.

If you are interested in giving some of your summer to care for orphans or malnourished children, distribute food to people in desperate need and be apart of building a home for a family without one, then consider Guatemala.

Hope of Life exists to help rescue the future generations of Guatemala. With the same compassionate Gospel that Jesus preached and with programs such as child sponsorship, community development, church planting, and the drilling of clean water wells, Hope of Life is establishing a future that is bright in Guatemala.
**TRIP COST – Based on 20 students**

Hope of Life  
(Includes housing, food, & insurance)  
$695

Airline Costs  
(Airfare and luggage)  
$641

Ground Transportation  
$20

T-shirt  
$13

Ministry Costs  
$531

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST = $1,900**

**Based on 20 students; if less, cost will increase marginally**

**If maximum number of students (30) is reached, cost will decrease marginally**

**APPLICATION & AIRLINE DEPOSIT:**

$100 trip deposit due with application on: **Monday, January 30, 2017**

Any funds not raised by each of the payment plan deadlines will be the responsibility of the student and family. Any balance not raised by the final payment due date will be the responsibility of the student and family.

**Trip Maximum = 30 students:** Evidence of Christian commitment, motivation for trip and first come/first served basis are primary considerations.

**TRIP REQUIREMENTS:**

Participants must:
✓ Have accepted Jesus as Savior and have a living, personal relationship with Him.
✓ Be willing to share their lives in Christ with other people, and a Gospel message.
✓ Be willing to submit to authority.
✓ Demonstrate a servant’s heart.
✓ Have some prior ministry experience.
✓ Accept more difficult ministry and living conditions.

**TRIP BENEFITS:**
✓ A heart for prayer
✓ Expanded vision for what God is doing in the world
✓ Confidence and Leadership skill development
✓ A desire to study God’s word
FOOD & LODGING:

Team members are served three meals a day at Hope of Life “ranchon” facility. Hope of Life kitchen staff prepares a variety of foods including both authentic Guatemalan meals and American. All foods served within the Hope of Life International campus are safe to eat and are prepared according to recommended health standards.

All team members will have an assigned room on the Hope of Life International campus. Each room is supplied with bedding and fans. HOL is located at a higher elevation and the temperatures are very comfortable during the night. In each housing area there are both showers and bathrooms. You must bring your own personal toiletry items and towels.

DRESS CODE:

MEN’S ATTIRE

Work/Casual: Modest shorts, pants, jeans, and t-shirts. Please note that your clothing and shoes may be ruined during work.
Church: Khakis, jeans, button-up shirts, or polos. Attire for church is more casual than formal but should be respectful.

WOMEN’S ATTIRE

Work/Casual: Modest shorts, capris, pants, jeans, and t-shirts. Please note that your clothing and shoes may be ruined during work.
Church: Skirts or dresses (knee length) with a sleeved shirt, light sweater/shrug.

LOCATION INFORMATION:

In an ideal location nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, Guatemala is home to more than fourteen million people. It covers over 42,000 square miles, and is sandwiched between Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, the Pacific Ocean, Honduras, Belize, and El Salvador. With lush greenery, 205 miles of coastline, exotic wildlife, majestic mountains, and striking landscapes, Guatemala is one of the most beautiful countries in Central America. The physical appeal of Guatemala, meaning “the land of forests,” masks its bloody past and uncertain future. Once home to Mayan civilization, Guatemala is now a biodiversity hotspot best known for incredible scenery and lovely beaches.
THE SITUATION IN GUATEMALA:

In 1996, the country emerged from a 36-year-long civil war; hundreds of thousands of people were lost. In 2009, the country declared a "state of public calamity" exposing a severe hunger crisis that was sweeping the nation. Particularly affected is the "dry corridor," located in eastern Guatemala, is said to be an area of severe malnutrition as a result of adverse weather, poor soil, and the global economic downturn. In this corridor, it is estimated that 54,000 people go hungry on a daily basis. According to UNICEF, nearly half of Guatemalan children suffer from severe malnutrition. The chronic hunger rate for children (49.8 percent) is the highest in the region and the fourth highest in the world. As a result, over 75 percent of the country’s population falls below the poverty line.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A “HOPE OF LIFE” MISSION TRIP:

Awaking at Hope of Life to the peace of a new morning, high on a mountainside in Zacapa, the day is fresh and ready to bring with it stories of rescue, help for the hurting, and the hard work of a ministry changing the life of each person it reaches out to. The morning is quiet and still, filled with His presence. Breakfast is served, fresh Guatemalan coffee and nourishment to strengthen each worker for the day. By 9 a.m. vehicles are loaded, and the day’s ministry is in full swing.

The rush to connect with staff member for a baby rescue is the first need to start the day. A Hope of Life staff member discovers a child who is in danger of dying from malnourishment. Parents can come to any one of the 78 feeding centers in the surrounding communities to receive food, and will often times bring their children. Staff members are always on the alert for any child who may be suffering from malnutrition and will immediately engage the parents in a conversation.

"Are there other children? Are they this thin? How long has she been like this? Will you let us help her? We can provide the medical care she needs. Two children had been found the day before, high on the top of a mountain. The tragedy of their story is already much to bear; the babies were born to two young teenage sisters, raped by their father who was now running from the law. Malnourishment, dehydration, and lack of medical access have demanded the need for immediate action.

An ambulance is driven to the river’s edge; the only way to bring the children across is hiring long canoes to cross the water. As the ambulance waits, the children are gathered into the boat and safely brought across. One little boy’s leg looks no bigger than a twig, his face was pale, and his body is limp. There are no cries from this child; he is too weak to even whimper. The red lights start flashing and dust kicks up as it rushes to the medical center. While many are rescued, a number of these children do not survive, time is of the essence. The mothers’ faces are lit with hope the closer they get. After being raised in poverty, abuse, and hunger, they had yet to see that things could be better. It was a day that would change their lives forever.

Ministry at Hope of Life does not slow; as soon as the rescue is complete the next need is ready to be met. Vans and a truck are loaded with nutrient rich meals and next stop is the municipal dump in Teculatan. It is hard to be prepared for the need and destitution of the families that live and work in the dump-shacks built into the little hillsides surrounding the city’s drop site, each with several children, no furniture, dirt floors, sticks and ripped tarps as walls. But that was not the most disturbing. A few times a day a garbage truck would race down the dirt road, kicking up rocks and barely missing children. Inside the truck would be all manner of trash and garbage. Without smelling or tasting it, children swallow the contents of spoiled yogurt containers while digging with their other hand for anything of interest—a tin can with some food left around the edges, bones from someone’s chicken dinner.
Older children would hang from trees and drop into the back of the garbage truck, trying to dig through the load for the most valuable materials. Selling the glass and various materials they procure will give their family an income for that day, as young as four years old this life was all they had ever known. At the feeding center lines form, families with a tin bowl or plastic cup for each member, ready for the only meal they will have that day. After getting their fill, the children run outside, expending energy they have received from the hearty meal, and laughing with each other, happy to simply play and have a hot meal in their bellies.

After feeding hundreds at the dump, it is time to head back to Hope of Life. After serving many others, it is time to replenish the energy needed for the rest of the day’s ministry. The babies that had been brought across the river were already bathed and wearing new clothes, their moms holding them quietly as they napped.

"We got to them in time," director Carlos Vargas told us. "They will be fine." The clinic is bustling with nurses and nannies, each finding tasks to do and babies to love on. “Before and after” pictures are on the walls, these are constant reminders of the importance of this work. No one’s hands are empty at the medical center, with so many to care for, each person takes a few minutes to hold, love, change, or feed the babies. Many children stay at the clinic alone for portions of time, as parents have other children to care for. Extra hands to hold and play with these children are a blessing to the families, and the staff at the medical center. Walking through making sure to touch each one on the cheek or hand, the toothless grins warmed will warm any heart. Some are so frail. The work of Hope of Life is their only chance at survival.

High on the mountainside, a modest series of homes make up the orphanage. A giant play area, and open area cafeteria, and loving nannies make this place special. The kids are happy to goof around with you, play ball, or just get tickled. Each one is carefully groomed, well dressed, and healthy. Each one attends school here on the grounds, the highest rated school in the area.

"Some of these kids will go to university, others we will train in a trade," Carlos said. "They will have a good life. They will tell the world about Jesus. This is the legacy that Hope of Life is leaving."

A warm dinner that evening, and some time relaxing in a hammock is the right way to end a day of hard work. The physical, emotional, and spiritual labor of Hope of Life’s ministry is exhausting. And as one day closes, another one is on the horizon… filled with stories of rescue, help for the hurting, and its own challenges- now including the construction of a home for the two sisters and their babies.

What a day. What a place. Thank you, Jesus.
TYPICAL SCHEDULE:

**Monday**
- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Projects - teams disperse to planned projects
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Visit Orphans/Nutrition Center/Senior Center
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. Leader Debriefing/Devotional meeting

**Tuesday**
- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Projects - teams disperse to planned project
- 11:30 p.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Food packing; warehouse or other on-site projects as determined by HOL
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Devotional meeting/Leader Debriefing

**Wednesday**
- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. Projects - teams disperse to planned project
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Serve lunch at the landfill (dump)
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Devotional Meeting/Leader Debriefing

**Thursday**
- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Projects - teams disperse to planned project
- 11:30 p.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Food packing; warehouse or other on-site projects as determined by HOL
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Devotional Meeting/Leader Debriefing

**Friday**
- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Projects - teams disperse to planned project
- 11:30 p.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Food packing; warehouse or other on-site projects as determined by HOL
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner at pool
- 7:00 p.m. Devotional Meeting/Leader Debrief

This is a TENTATIVE schedule and will change depending on the current project needs at the mission during your stay.

**VACCINATIONS:**

**IMPORTANT:** PLEASE consult with your insurance carrier regarding coverage of vaccinations and medications. Immunizations are not required by the country of Guatemala, the U.S. government or Hope of Life Ministries. However, in addition to necessary routine vaccines (MMR, Tetanus, Varicella and Polio vaccines) and in consultation with your Doctor, you can also check the Center for Disease Control ([http://www.cdc.gov/](http://www.cdc.gov/)) for recommended vaccines.
MAKE SURE YOUR VACCINES ARE CURRENT: Visit your doctor (ideally, 4-6 weeks) before your trip to get the necessary vaccines or medicines you may require. If your personal physician recommends any vaccinations but cannot provide them, we suggest calling one of the locations listed below.

**Passport Health**
140 Sherman Street
Fourth Floor
Fairfield, CT 06824
Phone: 203-307-4951
Website: http://www.passporthealthusa.com/stamford.

A number of our students from trips to other developing world countries have used this doctor for their vaccinations. Her information is as follows:
JoAnne Passalacqua, MD
2150 Black Rock Turnpike, Fairfield, CT
(203) 384-0451

**Healthy Traveler Services**
Bridgeport Hospital
267 Grant Street
Bridgeport, CT 06610
203-384-3613
http://www.bridgeporthospital.org

**ENTRY / EXIT REQUIREMENTS:**
When traveling to Guatemala you MUST have a passport. Visas are not required for U.S. citizens visiting the country for less than 90 days. Only a passport is required for traveling to this country. You need to **make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months past your departure date from Guatemala.**

**PASSPORT INFORMATION:**
If you **DO NOT** have a passport you **MUST BEGIN THE PROCESS ASAP.** The following is information necessary to obtain one:

1. Applications can be downloaded from http://travel.state.gov or picked up at any local post office.

2. Return the completed application to the post office with **TWO** passports photos, proof of citizenship, and proof of identity. NOTE: You must provide your social security number with your application, or risk a $500.00 penalty.

3. Proof of Citizenship can be one of the following: which can be one of the following: (a) Certified birth certificate, this must have an official raised seal on it, (b) consular report of birth abroad or certification of birth, (c) Naturalization certificate, or (d) a Certificate of Citizenship.

4. Proof of Identity can be given with a valid current driver’s license. NOTE: A social security card does NOT prove your identity. If you do not have a valid current driver’s license you must provide SEVERAL of the following forms of identification: (a) Certificate of Citizenship, (b) Previous U.S. passport, (c) Student ID card (H.S. or college), (d) Grammar school diploma or transcript, (e) Insurance papers, (f) baptismal certificate, (g) confirmation certification, and (h) a yearbook. Also, school records are acceptable. Please submit documents that have a photo or show your signature.
5. It will take 6 weeks for applications to be processed and passports to be issued. The cost of a passport is $100.00 for age 16 and older, and $85.00 for applicants under the age of 16. There is an expedited service, available at an additional $60.00 for each application that shortens the process to 3-2 weeks.

6. Passport photos must be 2x2 in size, identical, taken within the last 6 months, color, full face with plain white background, between 1"-1 3/8" from the bottom of chin to top of head, and taken in normal street attire. Vending machine photos are NOT acceptable. Many local photo shops can take and produce passport photos on the spot. Stores like CVS and Walgreens also provide this service usually at a cheaper cost.

7. The following is a list of local post offices that provide passport services. We would advise calling for their passport hours of operation as they may vary from post office to post office.

- Trumbull Post Office, 50 Quality Street. 268-2970
- Bridgeport Main Post Office, 120 Middle Street. 332-5302
- Fairfield Post Office, 357 Commerce Drive. 332-4546
- Huntington Post Office, 41 Church Street. 925-4297
- Shelton Post Office, 83 Bridge Street. 924-8349
- Stratford Post Office, 411 Barnum Avenue Cut-off. 381-1373

**SMART TRAVELER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (STEP):**

**What is Step?** The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. We encourage this for all international trips as a precautionary measure. By enrolling, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. Enrolling in STEP is easy, simply visit the travel.state.gov website at https://step.state.gov/step/ and scroll down to the enrollment box and click to begin the process.

**Benefits of enrolling in STEP:**

- Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.
- Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.
Christian Heritage School  
Payment Schedule – Guatemala  
June 17 – June 27, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT LETTERS</th>
<th>Sent out no later than <strong>Wednesday, February 17, 2016</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DROP</td>
<td>Although every effort will be made to retrieve and refund monies in the case of an extenuating circumstance, there are <strong>NO</strong> refunds for a participant drop at any time. If you do drop out, you will be completely responsible for the total trip cost.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| TRIP DEPOSIT      | **$ 100 Trip Deposit – DUE WITH APPLICATION**  
Due- **Monday, February 1, 2016** |
| AIRLINE DEPOSIT   | **$100 Airline Deposit**  
**Due - Wednesday, February 8, 2017** |
| PAYMENT PLAN      |  
|                   | **1st Payment Due - Wednesday, March 1, 2017**  
|                   | **$ 425** |
|                   | **2nd Payment Due – Wednesday, March 22, 2017**  
|                   | **$ 425** |
|                   | **3rd Payment Due –Wednesday, April 19, 2017**  
|                   | **$ 425** |
|                   | **FINAL PAYMENT**  
|                   | **4th Payment Due – Wednesday, May 17, 2017**  
|                   | **$ 425** |

**Important Note:**

- **It will be the responsibility of each student and their family to cover any amount not raised by any of the given payment plan due dates.** If a payment from the student and their family is required, you will be notified two days prior to the due date.

- According to the IRS, money provided by parents is not considered a donation (no tax receipt will be issued).