



**Morton United Methodist Youth Ministry**

# **Mission Trip 2012**

*Costa Rica with Rice & Beans Ministries*

**July 6<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**

## **INFORMATION & APPLICATION PACKET**

Some additional information available at [www.mortonUMCyouth.org](http://www.mortonUMCyouth.org)

Contact Aaron Yoder with any questions

[aarony@mortonUMC.org](mailto:aarony@mortonUMC.org) Office: 309-266-7174

## WHY AN INTERNATIONAL TRIP?

A pattern exists within the summer experiences for the MUMC Senior High. Every July includes either a mission trip or a summer conference. Here is what the past years have included:

2008 - Houma, LA Mission Trip

2009 - MOVE Conference in Cleveland, TN

2010 - Denver, CO Mission Trip

2011 - Youth2011 Methodist Conference in LaFayette, IN

**2012 - Costa Rica Mission Trip**

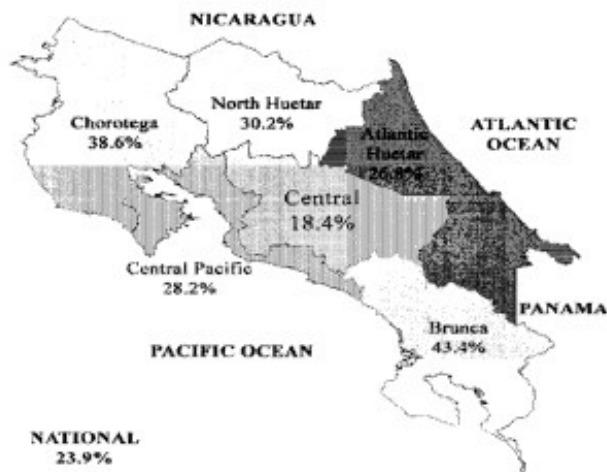
2013 - MOVE Conference (undetermined location)

It is the hope of this Youth Ministry to provide unique experiences that challenge students to grow at disciples of Jesus Christ. Every five or six years, the MUMC YM will offer a very special experience like the one coming this July.

## WHY COSTA RICA?

Costa Rica is often seen as a vacation destination. Although parts of the country attract wealthy tourists, a substantial portion of the country dwells in extreme

Map 2.1 Costa Rica 2004 Poverty Headcount by Regions



poverty, less than \$2 per day per person. Costa Rica has distinct geographic differences in the rate of poverty. In 2004, the poverty rate was as high as 43.4 percent in the Brunca region and 38.6 percent in the Chorotega region.

Costa Rica is also relatively safe, easily accessible to the US and open to hear the news of Jesus Christ.

These characteristics make Costa Rica a good location for youth mission trips.

Source: Costa Rica Poverty Assessment, Report No. 35910-CR February 12, 2007, Public Disclosure of The World Bank

## ABOUT RICE & BEANS MINISTRIES

The ministry that we will be partnering with is called Rice & Beans Ministries. This ministry began after Fred & Marie Curry, from Parkway Heights United Methodist Church (Mississippi), felt a burden on their hearts for the people of Costa Rica. They formed Rice & Beans Ministries in 2006. Since then, they have developed close relationships with the families in poverty while also providing bags of food and the good news of Jesus. You can learn much more at [www.riceandbeansministries.com](http://www.riceandbeansministries.com). This Ministry is also supported by the United Methodist Church through the General Board of Global Ministries.

## WHAT WE'LL DO

Our group will be in Costa Rica (specifically in the Central and Central Pacific region) during the week of July 9<sup>th</sup>. That week is called BASE CAMP. Once a year, Rice & Beans Ministries organizes a community effort to reach and teach children while feeding families. It is a week of joint service with the local church to create local missions programs. This week is particularly unique in that teenagers from USA, Nicaragua, Honduras and Panama come together to run a Bible Day Camp (like a Vacation Bible School) in the morning. Then they give food to families in the afternoon. We'll be serving people from a different culture while working on teams with students from different cultures! The service part of this trip will be from Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

## TRAVELING

The exact details of our traveling will be up in the air until we have our group secured. However, we will tentatively be flying out of Chicago on July 6<sup>th</sup> and returning on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Once we arrive in Costa Rica, transportation is provided for us.

Since we will be leaving the country, it will be important to pack light, be current with vaccinations (Hep A & B, Typhoid) and carry current passports. If you are joining us for this trip, you will be responsible for those areas. It may cost over \$100 to obtain a passport if you are older than 16 and require 10 or more weeks from applying before the passport is received.

## THE BIG QUESTION: THE COST?

This trip is unique not only because it is an international trip but because our fundraising efforts will be handled differently. An applicant for this trip will need to pay a \$100 non-refundable deposit (see application for more details). *NOTE: If you are put on a waiting list, this \$100 will be returned to you.* After that, the group of 12 students and 3 adults will together raise the remaining funds (approx. \$22,500). The first task of the group will be to send out support letters. If the need arises, we will then schedule extra fundraisers. It will take a lot of work, but with the Lord's help all things are possible!

## HOW TO APPLY?

Unfortunately, traveling out of the country makes it difficult to accommodate a large group of people. Therefore, we are limiting our group to 12 students and 3 adults. In the event that more spots can be available, those on the waiting list will be notified. There are 3 things you must do to apply for this trip:

1. Pray. Ask the Lord if you are ready to represent Him internationally.
2. Read and complete the MISSION TRIP 2012 APPLICATION FORM.
3. Submit the application and the \$100 deposit **ASAP**, before the spots fill up. All applications must be turned in by midnight on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. You will be notified on December 5<sup>th</sup> if you will be joining us in Costa Rica.