

A Cover Letter That Answers the Question “WHAT IS THIS TRIP ALL ABOUT?”

To Whom It May Concern:

What is the Riggins trip about? Building up the body of Christ and serving the universal Church.

This is always my answer when asked about what we do in Riggins. I always have to clarify, The Riggins Trip is not a “mission trip” the way most people think of a “mission trip.” That is, it is not primarily evangelistically focused. We don’t plan to do any more evangelizing than Christians *should* normally be doing in their daily lives. We go to Riggins to build up the Body of Christ there, with brothers and sisters whom we dearly love. We come alongside the local church that is already ministering to the community and do whatever we can to assist and improve that endeavor.

Over the 9 years we’ve been going to Riggins, we’ve seen kids grow up into godly men and women. Teens who first believed the gospel 9 years ago in VBS are now waiting for our team to come and help them minister to the town. When this trip started, it was a team of Texans going to learn how to preach the gospel to people their age, who speak their language, but in a slightly different context, and it still is that. We do go and preach the gospel, but now we do it primarily to those who already believe the gospel, but, like the man in Mark 9 merely need help in their unbelief.

There are new exciting dynamics of the trip this year, and I can’t wait to see how God uses them to bring himself Glory! First of all, Pastor Jim Thibodeaux, in Riggins, whom we dearly love and have been with all 9 years so far, has retired, and the new pastor, Mike Chapman, is excited to see what this “Texas Team” he hears so much about is really like! We were thrilled that Pastor Mike wanted us back again, and wants to help make both VBS and the trip as a whole as great as it can be.

Second, two different groups will be comprising the “Texas Team” this year, one from Fredericksburg and one from Houston. I am very excited about this prospect, because it emphasizes even more the theme of the universal church doing the work of the universal church. Local bodies coming together to serve THE body. That in mind, I want to make clear one piece of intentional language: we have two *groups* going on this trip, but only one *team* from Texas.

The other “team” is the Riggins Team! As I said, we’ve seen kids grow up and become followers of Christ as a result of this trip, to the point that there is now a functioning Youth Group in Riggins. This is, again, why the focus of the trip has changed over the years.

Discipleship has been explained to me in four steps: I do; you watch. I do; you help. You do; I help. You do; I watch. Last year we began transitioning from the “I do; you help,” step to the “You do; I help,” step, and we want to continue that transition this year.

Unfortunately, you can’t *really* understand why it’s so worthwhile until you actually go and experience it for yourself. We make no apologies for the fact that half of why we go there is because we really want to. But nine years in, you can’t call us tourists.

The average day consists of VBS in the morning, service projects in the afternoon, ministry with teens in the evening, and family time for the team at night. We’re pretty much *going* non-stop from 8a-10p every day.

For anyone who comes, it will be a life-changing experience. The course of my life drastically shifted because of this town and this trip, and I know others who can attest to the same. If you’re wondering whether it’s worth it now, you will wonder why you ever wondered that at all when you get back.

I hope the information in the following packet is helpful. Don’t hesitate to ask me *anything*. Questions, concerns, insults, encouragements, I welcome them all.

For HIM and only HIM.

Stephen Curto

MAIN INFORMATION PACKET

Trip Dates:

July 20-31, 2018

Leader Contact Info:

Stephen Curto
713-540-4673 (text or call)
stephen.curto@gmail.com

Clint and Denise Tees
dmtees@sbcglobal.net
clinton.tees@sbcglobal.net
Clint: 281-639-8577
Denise: 281-639-8579

Daniel Phillips
210-260-0042
daniel@hccfbg.org

Rob Holster
rob@hccfbg.org
541-580-7914

Pastor Mike Chapman
Salmon River Community Church
208-628-3844
P.O. Box 428
Riggins, ID 83549

Trip Blog:

mygiveonthings.com/riggins-2018-blog/

This is where you can receive daily updates on-trip to hear stories and see pictures of what's happening. Visit: mygiveonthings.com/riggins-2017-blog/ to see last year's blog!

Cost:

FOR BOTH GROUPS: Each participant must pay \$1000.00 according to the following schedule. Early payments are welcome and encouraged. (Three Payment Deadlines: \$50 ASAP to hold place on trip; \$450 May 22nd for plane ticket; \$500 July 16th)

I no longer feel comfortable calling this a "missions trip," but I am comfortable calling it a "discipleship trip." If you write support letters to raise funds, please be clear about what we're doing and why. I encourage students to, work extra odd jobs, make sacrifices in daily spending, and save their own money to go on this trip instead of writing support letters, but I do not prohibit it.

If money is the only problem with your attendance, come talk to a leader. We will always do our best to help those struggling to reach the goal. We don't want money to be the reason you can't come, but don't expect a free ride for no work. (2 Thess 3:10)

FOR HOUSTON GROUP: Pay money to Stephen directly either in person with cash or check, via venmo, paypal, or bank transfer. For tax-deductible donations made, mail to SRCC (Address above) and include a note of who the donation is for. After the trip is over, any money not spent on the trip (or donated by an outside source for the trip) will be refunded to the participants.

FOR FREDERICKSBURG GROUP: Pay money to Daniel Phillips according to the schedule above.

Meeting Schedule:

FOR HOUSTON GROUP: Sunday afternoons from 3:30-5:30pm at the Mitchell's House. 11018 Albury Park Ln. (code: *7073).

From April 29th - July 15th participants will meet for a weekly Bible study ("Homegroup"). Every participant must be present for at least 66% (4 absences) to go to Riggins. (discuss extenuating circumstances that might prevent this attendance with a leader.) The reason for this is to build community and team dynamics and to LEARN!

FOR FREDERICKSBURG GROUP: Talk to Daniel Phillips. TBD.

Pre-Trip Retreat

May 18-20

We will spend one weekend in Fredericksburg having a lock-in at Hill Country Church. The purpose of this retreat is two-fold: (1) **Building team unity.** This year, more than any other, it is ESSENTIAL to attend the pre-trip retreat so that our two groups, those from Fredericksburg and those from Houston, can get to know each other, learn each other's strengths and weaknesses, and work most effectively together to make disciples. (2) **Soul upkeep.** Sometimes shutting out the world brings to light our own sinful tendencies and allows us to address them in a safe and controlled environment. We'll be doing some self-analysis as a group to best prepare spiritually for a trip that demands a lot from those who attend.

Flight Info:

To Boise:

Depart Airport	Date	Time	Flight#	Arrival Airport	Time
HOU	Fri, Jul 20	9:55am	WN804	PHX	10:30am
PHX	Fri, Jul 20	12:15am	WN768	BOI	3:15am

To Houston:

Depart Airport	Date	Time	Flight#	Arrival Airport	Time
BOI	Tues, Jul 31	4:00pm	WN1293	LAS	4:40pm
LAS	Tues, Jul 31	6:25pm	WN2143	HOU	11:25pm

Basic Schedule:

July 19

8:00pm- assemble at host church (TBD) in Houston.

11:00pm- Lights out

July 20

7:00am- Depart Houston host church

7:30am- Arrive at Hobby Airport

3:15pm- Arrive Boise

4-7:30pm- Walmart and dinner

7:30-11:30pm- Drive to Riggins

12am- Lights out

July 21

VBS run-through's and practices with Riggins Team

all day.

July 22

8-12am- Church Service (we run it)

1-3pm- Church Picnic

4pm- Finishing touches on VBS

10pm- Lights out

July 23-27

8-12pm- VBS

1-5pm- Service Projects

5-8pm- Field Night

8-11pm- Showers then Family Time

July 28-30

"Free" days (Rafting, Church Service, free time, recuperate)

July 31

9:30am- Roll out

1:30am- check in at Airport

11:25pm- Arrive in Houston

August 1

*Fredericksburg group will stay at the Curto's house on the evening of July 31 and return to Fredericksburg On the morning of August 1st.

Packing List:

Essentials

- VBS materials (curriculum, props, teaching notes etc.)
- Bible
- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping Pad/Air Mattress (many students purchase at Walmart once in ID)
- Pillow
- Tennis Shoes/Sneakers/Athletic Shoes (grungy for walking and sporting)
- Water Shoes/Sandals
- Nicer Tennis Shoes/Dress Shoes (for church)
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, deodorant, tooth paste, tooth brush, etc.)
- 2 Pairs Long Pants/Jean
- 4-5 Pairs Shorts
- 1 Swimsuit
- 1 Sweatshirt/Windbreaker (it does get cold in the evenings)
- 1 Long sleeve T-shirt

- 4-5 other shirts
- 2-3 sets athletic clothes
- 2 Sets Church clothes (Boys- collared Shirt and nice “no-holes” jeans and shoes or better; Girls- nice blouse and pants or skirt with proper footwear or better)
- Underwear and Socks (enough for 9 days)
- 2 Towels
- Sun Screen

Non-Essentials

- Spending money (we suggest \$25-\$40 spending money for food during driving trips and other souvenirs and knick-knacks)
- Camera
- Journal
- Books for Travel Time
- Cell phone (proceed with caution... if problematic, will be confiscated... ☺)

Riggins FAQs:

What are the sleeping arrangements while there?

Salmon River Community Church has a large basement divided into two large rooms with a kitchen in between. The boys will stay on one side, the girls on the other, no exceptions between lights-out each night and VBS each morning. Chaperones will sleep in each room.

Will my child be allowed to go off alone?

No. We will adhere to the following “group of three” rules: No student will go anywhere without at least two other people, or just one other if it is their chaperone of the same sex. Groups with any girl will have at least two boys accompanying it. No twosomes or singles.

What happens in case of an emergency?

The ranking leader present will take charge. In case of extreme medical emergency, patients will be taken to the emergency room in McCall (45 minutes from Riggins). The leader will contact parents immediately with information. All other emergencies will be handled at the ranking leader’s discretion.

What is the plan for food?

Breakfasts and lunches will be purchased at Walmart in Boise. We eat meals together. Dinners will be provided by the citizens of Riggins. Cost of food is included in budget, except for food while traveling (2 lunches, 1 dinner).

What about showers?

The congregation members of the church open their homes to us to shower each night. Getting to talk with the Rigginites at shower-time is widely regarded one of the best parts of the trip. There are some fascinating people who live in Riggins and attend Salmon River Community Church. World-record holders, WWII vets, and school teachers.

Can I contact my child during the trip?

Of course! Students will be allowed to have phones as long as they don’t interfere with the trip. If a phone is confiscated, parents can call Stephen Curto or Daniel Phillips, or the church, to talk to their child.

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

In consideration of the risk of injury while participating in the Riggins 2018 Mission Trip (the "Activity"), and as consideration for the right to participate in the Activity, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, assigns, or personal representatives, knowingly and voluntarily enter into this waiver and release of liability and hereby waive any and all rights, claims or causes of action of any kind whatsoever arising out of my participation in the Activity, and do hereby release and forever discharge Stephen Curto, located at 12410 West Little York Rd. Apt #1035, Houston, Texas 77041, and his associate leaders for any physical or psychological injury, including but not limited to illness, paralysis, death, damages, economical or emotional loss, that I may suffer as a direct result of my participation in the Riggins 2018 Mission Trip, including traveling to and from an event related to this Activity.

I am voluntarily participating in the Riggins 2018 Mission Trip entirely at my own risk. I am aware of the risks associated with traveling to and from as well as participating in this Activity, which may include, but are not limited to, physical or psychological injury, pain, suffering, illness, disfigurement, temporary or permanent disability (including paralysis), economic or emotional loss, and death. I understand that these injuries or outcomes may arise from my own or others' negligence, conditions related to travel, or the condition of the Activity location(s). Nonetheless, I assume all related risks, both known or unknown to me, of my participation in this Activity, including travel to, from and during this Activity.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Stephen Curto and his associate leaders against any and all claims, suits or actions of any kind whatsoever for liability, damages, compensation or otherwise brought by me or anyone on my behalf, including attorney's fees and any related costs, if litigation arises pursuant to any claims made by me or by anyone else acting on my behalf. If Stephen Curto and his associate leaders incur any of these types of expenses, I agree to reimburse Stephen Curto and his associate leaders.

I acknowledge that Stephen Curto and his associate leaders are not responsible for errors, omissions, acts or failures to act of any party or entity conducting a specific event or activity on behalf of Stephen Curto and his associate leaders.

I acknowledge that the Riggins 2018 Mission Trip may involve a test of a person's physical and mental limits and may carry with it the potential for death, serious injury, and property loss. The risks may include, but are not limited to, those caused by terrain, facilities, temperature, weather, lack of hydration, condition of participants, equipment, vehicular traffic and actions of others, including but not limited to, participants, volunteers, spectators, coaches, event officials and event monitors, and/or producers of the event.

I acknowledge that I have carefully read this "waiver and release" and fully understand that it is a release of liability. I expressly agree to release and discharge Stephen Curto and his associate leaders from any and all claims or causes of action and I agree to voluntarily give up or waive any right that I otherwise have to bring a legal action against Stephen Curto and his associate leaders for personal injury or property damage.

To the extent that statute or case law does not prohibit releases for negligence, this release is also for negligence on the part of Stephen Curto and his associate leaders, his agents, and employees.

In the event that I should require medical care or treatment, I agree to be financially responsible for any costs incurred as a result of such treatment. I am aware and understand that I should carry my own health insurance.

In the event that any damage to equipment or facilities occurs as a result of my willful actions, neglect or recklessness, I acknowledge and agree to be held liable for any and all costs associated with any actions of neglect or recklessness.

I agree to do everything in my power to make payments amounting to \$100.00 in a timely manner, no later than July 16, 2018 and will pay a total of at least \$500 prior to May 22, 2018.

I acknowledge that I have no guarantee of reimbursement of any funds I give to participate in the Riggins 2018 Mission Trip. I understand that the last day I can receive reimbursement of any kind is May 21, 2018 and thereafter, I will forfeit any funds I have contributed to the trip.

This Agreement was entered into at arm's-length, without duress or coercion, and is to be interpreted as an agreement between two parties of equal bargaining strength. Both the Participant, _____, and Stephen Curto and his associate leaders agree that this Agreement is clear and unambiguous as to its terms, and that no other evidence will be used or admitted to alter or explain the terms of this Agreement, but that it will be interpreted based on the language in accordance with the purposes for which it is entered into.

In the event that any provision contained within this Release of Liability shall be deemed to be severable or invalid, or if any term, condition, phrase or portion of this agreement shall be determined to be unlawful or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of this agreement shall remain in full force and effect, so long as the clause severed does not affect the intent of the parties. If a court should find that any provision of this agreement to be invalid or unenforceable, but that by limiting said provision it would become valid and enforceable, then said provision shall be deemed to be written, construed and enforced as so limited.

In the event of an emergency, please contact the following person(s) in the order presented:

<u>Emergency Contact</u>	<u>Contact Relationship</u>	<u>Contact Telephone</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I, the undersigned participant, affirm that I am of the age of 18 years or older, and that I am freely signing this agreement. I certify that I have read this agreement, that I fully understand its content and that this release cannot be modified orally. I am aware that this is a release of liability and a contract and that I am signing it of my own free will.

Participant's Name: _____

Participant's Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN WAIVER FOR MINORS

In the event that the participant is under the age of consent (18 years of age), then this release must be signed by a parent or guardian, as follows:

I hereby certify that I am the parent or guardian of _____, named above, and do hereby give my consent without reservation to the foregoing on behalf of this individual.

Parent / Guardian Name: _____

Relationship to Minor: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____