

# YWAM NICOYA, GUANACASTE Costa Rica



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## MANUAL FOR SHORT-TERM TEAMS



**IT IS A REQUIREMENT FOR EACH TEAM LEADER TO HAVE READ THIS MANUAL FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END BEFORE BOOKING DATES AND PLANNING AN OUTREACH IN GUANACASTE.**

Thank you for your interest in bringing an outreach team to join the ministry of Youth With A Mission Nicoya, Guanacaste, Costa Rica! This manual is designed to help guide and prepare you as you plan your mission trip. We hope that you find it helpful. If you have any questions, please contact us any time.

### **Youth With A Mission Statement of Purpose:**

**Youth With A Mission (YWAM) is an international movement of Christians from many denominations dedicated to presenting Jesus personally to this generation, to mobilizing as many as possible to help in this task, and to the training and equipping of believers for their part in fulfilling the Great Commission. As citizens of God's kingdom, we are called to love, worship, and obey our Lord, to love and serve His Body, the Church, and to present the whole Gospel for the whole person throughout the whole world.**

**We of Youth With A Mission believe that the Bible is God's inspired and authoritative word, revealing that Jesus Christ is God's son; that people are created in God's image; that He created us to have eternal life through Jesus Christ; that although all people have sinned and come short of God's glory, God has made salvation possible through the death on the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ; that repentance, faith, love and obedience are fitting responses to God's initiative of grace towards us; that God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth; and that the Holy Spirit's power is demonstrated in and through us for the accomplishment of Christ's last commandment, "...Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)**

### **YWAM GUANACASTE**

#### **Mission statement:**

**Being a permanent Christian presence and witness in the rural communities of Guanacaste to:**

- Guide and teach individuals to find salvation and abundant life in Jesus Christ**
- Support and teach communities toward biblical transformation and development**
- Help, support and strengthen the local church and mobilize it to world missions**

We have a center in a small rural village called Corral de Piedra. Since 2005 we have been working in evangelism, discipleship, mercy ministries and community development through various ministries and projects. Our training program started in 2011 with a 5-month bilingual Discipleship Training School that we run every September.

We are renting two houses with basic facilities for teams and staff. Teams stay in separate dormitories for males and females. The rooms are equipped with fans and bunk beds with mattresses. Bathrooms (5) and showers (5) are shared. The base has a dining room, living room and porch areas for common use.

The Lord has blessed us with a large piece of property to build a base, so hopefully soon teams will be able to sleep in new and more spacious facilities. We also challenge and invite teams to give a day or two to help with a construction project at the new base.

For transportation, we have two buses and a van that we use to transport teams.

## **OUTREACHES**

God has greatly used short-term teams to reach Costa Rica with the Gospel. The “ticos” (=Costaricans) are very open to foreigners and to listening to what they have to say.

At YWAM we design the outreach schedule together with the team leader according to the interests, giftings and calling of the team. It is important that you confirm your dates and send us all the proper information early on. It is also very important that you prepare and plan the outreach with prayer together with your team members. God wants to show your team His heart for Guanacaste and often puts specific things, burdens and tasks on the teams' hearts.

As we plan and prepare outreaches, there are few principles that we follow:

- Ministry is based in relationships and focused on the community. We believe this reflects God's love and character better than any other approach.
- The work that the teams do short-term, supports ongoing ministries and long-term ministry goals of YWAM in Guanacaste and Costa Rica.
- We work together with the local churches and pastors, supporting them in the vision God has given them and guiding new converts to them.

### **Information we need from you as early as possible (IMPORTANT!): (PLEASE SEND THIS TO US BY E-MAIL MIN. 5 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR OUTREACH.)**

- Dates (confirmed when you book them. We do not reserve or hold dates without a committed booking. \$100 non-refundable booking fee per night is required to confirm your booking. This amount is deducted from your outreach fee IF you come on the dates you booked. For new dates, new booking fee has to be paid.)
- Complete number of people coming, a full list of names, ages, professions/abilities
- Full name, address, phone number, e-mail address, fax number of the team leader
- Full name, address and contact information of the sending church and pastor/school/ywam base
- Flight information with dates, times and flight numbers (arrival and departure) as soon as you have it
- What your ministry interest and focus is, what you want to do on your outreach

- Special needs/diets/illnesses...
- If you are going to participate in the Bible Distribution project, how many Bibles your group wants to distribute / sponsor. The cost for Bibles is \$3 each.
- What will your team do on their free day, do you need us to book hotels, organize tours...

The teams evangelize and serve others, but we also desire that the preparation and outreach time helps each participant to grow in their personal relationship with God. This is very much up to the team leader. It is important to prepare a devotional schedule and material to be used by the team members individually and to plan ahead of time how you will spend your 'team times' that are usually in the evenings. In the outreach schedule there will be times for individual devotions, worship and intercession times together with the YWAMers at the base and separate 'team times' for your team that can be used for reflection, teaching, worship, prayer, discussion, sharing, ministry prep etc. If you as a leader are motivated and excited about the outreach, looking forward to what God will do in you and through you, the team members will take the same attitude.

## **MINISTRY OPTIONS**

There are many exciting opportunities for ministry in Guanacaste. In order to make your experience effective and enjoyable, we ask that in your first few meetings as a team, you take the time to pray about what ministry God is leading your team to do. What is the heart of your team? What are the strengths of your team members? We have found that this gives the team more ownership of what they are doing and makes them more effective and excited about their ministry! We know that God has a purpose for each team and we want to do everything possible to make sure you are doing the ministry that fits your team the best. Here are some ministry opportunities, but please keep in mind that you are not limited to these. Feel free to suggest other ideas and combine different areas of ministry!

***BIBLE DISTRIBUTION*** – We have taken on a project to distribute a Bible to each house in the province of Guanacaste. This means 114 000 Bibles altogether. Since this is one of our most important ministries right now, we want all the teams participate in this. Expect your team to use at least some of your outreach time going house to house giving out Bibles, sharing with the people and offering to pray for them. Your church and team can purchase Bibles through us (\$3 per Bible), please see the information on “***Guanacaste Bible Project***” page at the end of this manual.

***Worship*** – Worshiping God in strategic places and towns, leading worship in churches, organizing worship seminars. We recommend your team to learn some songs in Spanish.

***Intercession*** – Strategic and organized intercession in different places, teaching churches about intercession.

***Teaching*** – Bible teaching in churches, youth meetings, camps etc.

**Base support** – Helping the YWAM base with practical needs like painting, fixing, maintenance and construction.

**Community Service** – Helping the local communities by cleaning parks, fixing schools, painting community buildings or any other kind of practical work. The team raises the funds for material expenses.

**Homes of Hope** – Build a house for a family in need. The minimum cost per house is \$7750. The team has to raise funds for this that are wired to YWAM Costa Rica several months prior to the outreach. There need to be at least two adults in the team with construction skills and experience, with ability to instruct others.

**Children's ministry** – Communicating God's love to children in villages or schools. Team should be well prepared with games, crafts, face paints, balloon animals, Bible stories, songs, dramas for children, puppets... Work can be done with the same group of children for several days (VBS) or each day with a different group. If you plan on giving gifts to the children, think well what you are going to give. One well thought gift of good quality is much better than many small and cheap toys that will brake the following week. Gift ideas: Bible story books in Spanish, toothbrushes and paste, soaps, school supplies, soccer balls, flash lights...

**Sports ministry** – Soccer schools, sports camps, soccer games, donating soccer equipment, training coaches, surf ministry.

**Music ministry** – Bring down a music group that can play concerts. Teaching music classes in churches or schools.

**Drama** – Have at least 5 well prepared and practised dramas. Train the team members to explain the dramas and use them for sharing the Gospel. Presentations in various locations.

**Evangelism** – Train each team member to share the gospel person to person, using their own testimony. Go through the Gospel message with them, prepare them to answer the most common questions. Bring tracts in Spanish!

**Discipleship** – Working with local churches and Christians in the area of discipleship. Spanish Bibles, books and discipleship material is much needed!

**Abstinence / Pregnant teenagers / young mothers** – Doing abstinence presentations, visit teenage mothers, help with one of the YWAM Maternity Courses for pregnant teenagers, do a special activity for young mothers, bring down baby clothes and supplies.

**Drug prevention** – Drugs are a growing problem among the high school students. You can prepare a drug awareness presentation to present to high school groups, parents, churches...

**Open-air evangelism** – Presenting music, dramas, testimonies and short messages in public areas like parks.

**Construction project** – Fixing or building a school, a classroom, a playground or a community building. The team has to raise funds for this that are wired to YWAM Costa Rica several months prior to the outreach. There need to be at least two adults in the team with construction skills and experience, with ability to instruct others.

**Youth Ministry** – Youth meetings, camps, friendship evangelism.

**School visits** – Organized visits to primary or high schools. Music, drama, abstinence presentations, English teaching etc.

**Medical teams:** Responding to the medical needs in the poorest and remotest communities. Team needs to bring doctors and nurses and medical supplies.

## **PREPARING FOR THE OUTREACH**

We recommend that you have the group together, dates confirmed, information sent and ministry defined six months before the outreach. This gives you six months for fund raising, team building, training and other preparations.

Here are some practical tips for outreach preparation:

- Have the team members research about different aspects of Costa Rica and present it to the rest of the team
- Have regular intercession meetings for Costa Rica and for the outreach
- Do a background check on team members that you don't previously know
- Make sure each participant has right motives and reasons for participating
- Find out and inform us about any physical disabilities, sicknesses, special needs etc  
**Make sure each person signs the Medical Release Form.**
- Find out the giftings and abilities of each team member, see how they can be used on this outreach
- Divide responsibilities among the team (first aid, passports and tickets, ministry areas, devotions, worship...) As a leader you don't have to do everything yourself!
- Find someone to teach your team basic principles of different cultures, religions, cultural differences and inter-cultural learning.
- Make sure the team has a good understanding of the Gospel and is prepared to share it at any time and that the team members are prepared to lead a person to Christ.
- Have each team member prepare their personal testimony (3-5 min.) and practice it with the team.
- Teach the team members about the importance of intercession and worship.

- Find out in what practical ways you can involve other people who are not going on the outreach, like have other church members donate money for Bibles, collect school supplies for the team to donate to a local school or organize intercession for the team in the church...
- Have everyone learn at least few words and phrases in Spanish.
- Stay in good communication with us!
- Establish guidelines for dating and other areas within your team. Go through the dress code instructions with your team.
- A passport valid for at least one year is required for every person entering Costa Rica, regardless of age. The leader needs to keep a copy of everybody's passport with him/her at all times. Start the process early!
- Make sure each team leader coming to Costa Rica with the team has read this manual before the trip!

### **COST AND PAYMENTS:**

The cost for outreach teams is **\$60/night/person**. This will cover food (3 meals a day), housing and transportation while at the base.

If your team flies to San Jose (Juan Santamaria) airport, there is an extra fee of **\$20 per person for each trip to the airport, so \$40 total (arrival and departure)**. We recommend flying into Liberia (Daniel Oduber), for that there is no extra airport pick-up cost.

There is an **exit tax of \$29/person** that must be paid before you leave the country. This will be done at the airport before you check your luggage and must be paid in cash. Please verify this with your airline before you come down as the cost is subject to change.

Please plan on raising extra funds for Bibles, community service projects, Homes of Hope, other building projects or any other ministry expenses.

You must pay your outreach in advance through a bank transfer. **The money has to be transferred at the latest one month prior to arrival.** Outreach fee is refundable until one month prior to the dates you have booked, except for the booking fee of \$100 per night per team. We cannot accept checks. Please see transfer information at the end of this document.

Please note that your free day activities away from the base are not covered in the costs mentioned here. If you wish to use base transportation before or after your stay at the base, for example for trips to other areas, the cost is **\$20/person/day** and if you stay at a hotel, you will be asked to cover the cost of the hotel room of the driver. This has to be coordinated beforehand; we cannot guarantee extra transportation services, since priority is always given to groups staying at the base or ministry activities.

Team members can bring extra money for purchasing snacks and drinks or doing laundry at the base. They can pay in dollars, washer and dryer take US quarters. On the way to the airport you can stop at a good souvenir store to buy gifts to take home. These stores take dollars, debit and credit cards.

For your information, all the leaders, staff members and volunteers at the YWAM base are non-paid volunteers who have to raise support for covering their living, ministry and personal expenses. They don't receive any money from the fee your team pays. If you would like to support them, we highly recommend you to add that in your general budget per person or to collect a love offering for this purpose.

The cost of living in Costa Rica is very high and has been on the rise for many years. To your surprise, you will find that clothes, food and gasoline are much more expensive than, for example in the States or other Central American countries.

### **SCHEDULE:**

Daily schedule consists of devotionals, worship and intercession times, meals, ministry times, team time and some free time. There are three parts of a ministry day: morning, after lunch and night. Normally two parts of the day are filled with ministry and one is left for you to have your team time. Breakfast is served at 7 am and everyone needs to be dressed and ready for the day before that. The light off time is strictly at 10 pm.

The team schedule will be prepared well in advance and sent to you for suggested changes. Last minute changes always happen in this culture, so we ask you to be flexible even though we will do our best to follow the agreed schedule and expect you to follow it as well.

The ywam base prepares three meals daily, if the team is going out to do ministry, they pack lunch to take with. The food is a combination of traditional Costa Rican foods with some international flavor.

### **FREE DAY:**

As a part of your outreach we do allow the opportunity to take free days (one free day per 6 days of ministry). Here are some ideas that you can present to your team and then let us know what you are interested in. We can give you prices as soon as you let us know.

You will still be charged the \$60/day/person during your free day. You will be responsible for the cost of free day activities, transportation and meals (except for pack lunch) while away from the base, so please plan accordingly. If you would like staff members to travel with you, you will be responsible for their cost as well.

Some free day options:

- **Barra Honda National Park** : 5-6 hour hike in a mountain with entrance to natural condition caves. Beautiful hike, but needs good physical condition. Entrance, guide and equipment cost about \$20 pp.
- **Beach**: Visit one or more of the beautiful Pacific Beaches. Hotel stay possible. Souvenir shopping close. Pay for transportation and meals only.
- **Canopy tour**: Zip lines are made for adventure seekers, 2-4 hours zipping through forests. \$50 pp.
- **Arenal Volcano**: Need to stay overnight. This is an active volcano in sleeping state and surrounded by lots of stuff to do, horse rides, waterfall, zip line, hot spring waters, souvenir shopping... Ask us for prices.
- **River boat tour**: 2-3 hours by boat on rivers where you can see beautiful nature, crocodiles, birds, monkeys, lizards...
- **Safari**: three hour tour in a natural reserve with all kinds of animals. Can be combined with river boat tour.
- **Coffee tour**: see how the best coffee in the world is grown and produced
- **Day in Corral de Piedra**: seeing traditional life style and nature of our home village, includes a mountain hike, family/farm visit, eating local food, bird watching...

## **THINGS TO BRING**

### **EACH TEAM MEMBER:**

Sheet, pillow, light sleeping bag or sheet set  
(or pay extra \$5 for “renting” a pillow and set of sheets, up to 20 people)  
Water bottle  
Lunch bag  
Bed pad (for teams not staying at the base)  
Sunscreen  
Insect repellent  
Hand Sanitizer  
Towel  
Shower supplies  
Clothes for hot weather  
Work clothes that can get dirty, work gloves  
Bathing Suit (one piece for ladies)  
Comfortable shoes  
Hat  
Bible and notebook  
Rain gear (for teams coming between June and December)  
Flashlight  
Spending cash (for snacks and souvenirs)

### **EACH TEAM:**

- Good first aid kit
- Instruments, if you play any
- Tracts, Bibles and Christian literature in Spanish
- Camera (one assigned photographer per team is a good idea, so everyone won't be taking pictures all the time)
- Drama and ministry supplies
- Emergency fund of \$20 per person for possible doctors' visits, unexpected changes etc.
- Things you wish to donate for local churches, schools, the ywam ministry or individuals

Please note: Because of your ministry schedule and our remote location, there will not be any time to go shopping for things that you forgot or did not want to pack. Please be sure to bring everything you will need during the trip.

There are limited laundry facilities at the base for the use of your team, but we recommend that you bring enough clothes for your entire stay and don't depend on washing them. Cost of laundry is \$1,5/load (US quarters) using your own soap.

Construction teams: please check with us about additional things to bring.

## **DRESS CODE**

Because we have people working from many nations and cultures, there are differences in our thinking regarding appropriate dress. We need to be sensitive to others and to the culture in Costa Rica. Here are a few guidelines to help you out with your packing.

- Preferably loose fitting shirts
- Shorts that are above the knee are acceptable for free time, for the ywam base and for service projects. Girls please don't wear short shorts. The minimum length of shorts is mid-thigh, girls wearing shorter shorts than mid-thigh, will be asked to change. All skirts and dresses should be knee-length or longer.
- Usually no shorts for church. Khaki pants, nicer shirts, dresses and skirts (at least knee length and no tank tops) are good.
- Sleeveless shirts are acceptable, but no spaghetti straps for ministry.
- Designs on clothing should be appropriate.
- Shirts should cover your stomach, bra straps and lower back

Helpful hint: When in doubt, don't bring it!

(Bathing suits are usually worn only on free days, outside of the base, so it is up to you what guidelines you want to give your team about them. We recommend one piece for girls.)



## **OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER:**

**INSURANCE:** We require that each person has an international medical insurance when coming to Costa Rica, just in case of emergency. Please check with your insurance company to see if they will cover you internationally. In case of minor injury or illness, there are clinics that we can take you to and we will be able to get you any necessary prescriptions. A regular doctor's visit costs around \$60-\$80.

**SHOTS:** This is always a big concern for teams because of a fear of the unknown. There are no big threats medically that would necessarily require any shots, but if you want to play it safe, the most accurate information can be found at the Center for Disease Control (in the United States) or any other local health authority. We do recommend that everyone's tetanus shot is up to date.

**MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS:** **We require that everyone coming with your team has one of our medical release forms filled out and signed.** There is one attached to the back of this packet. Please bring these down when you come and present them upon your arrival.

**WATER:** The water here is safe to drink, so tap water is always available. If your team is going to an area where it is not safe, we will provide filtered water with you. If you are concerned for water quality, we recommend team-members to purchase personal water bottles with filters  
(for example: <http://www.berkeywater.com/SportBerkey/BerkeySport.html>).

**LUGGAGE:** Please check with your airline about baggage limitations, but we recommend that you limit your participants to one personal medium size checked bag and encourage them to bring only essentials. Make sure all luggage is labeled with name and address. There is very limited space for personal belongings in the dormitories.

**FLIGHTS AND AIRPORT PICK UP:** There is an international airport in Guanacaste, so please check for flights to **LIBERIA, Costa Rica**. Sometimes they are even more affordable than flights to San Jose. If you have to fly to San José, we will organize a pick up from there, but the bus ride to the YWAM location in Guanacaste will be about 4 hours long and there is an additional cost of \$20/person each trip to the airport. Upon your arrival at the Liberia (recommended) or San Jose airport, we will be outside with a YWAM sign to pick you up. Please keep the YWAM base phone number with you in case of cancellations, delays etc.

**CHANGING MONEY:** We can take the team leader to a bank in the first couple of days to change money. We recommend the leader change a small amount (\$5 or \$10) for each team member. Do not change money at the airport; the exchange rate is very bad! You can also get local money from the ATM machines and most stores accept US dollars in 5, 10 or 20 dollar bills. For buying snacks at the YWAM base, it is best that team members have some \$1, \$5 or \$10 bills.

**WEATHER:** Always hot and humid! In the dry season (December to May) dusty, in the rainy season (June to November) wet and muddy!

**TRANSLATORS:** It is helpful to know the basics or even just few words of Spanish, but if not, you don't have worry about the language barrier while you are here. We will provide your team with a translator that will be with you during all your ministry time. Please let us know if there are any Spanish speakers in your team.

**COMMUNICATION WHILE IN COSTA RICA:** Communication is hard. The best thing is that you as a leader would try to have your phone open for international use, that way you can text or e-mail home. If not, we will arrange it so that only the leader will have access to a phone and e-mail few times during the outreach. The YWAM phone number can be given only for emergencies. Please have a person at home with whom the leader can be in touch with and who then can let everyone's friends and family members know what is going on with the team. It is not possible for the team members to have access to phone and internet during the outreach.

**BUGS:** Yes, you will be in the tropics and it is possible to see every bug and animal you probably don't want to see... But they are not everywhere all the time, so relax!

**USING ALCOHOL OR DRUGS, SMOKING, SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN UNMARRIED PERSONS AND HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVITY ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING YOUR STAY IN COSTA RICA.**

## **GUANACASTE BIBLE PROJECT**

### **Goal: A Bible to each home in the province of Guanacaste**

We purchase full Spanish NIV Bibles for \$3.00 including shipping and logistics. We will need 114 000 Bibles to cover each house in the whole province. With YWAM staff, teams, volunteers and local churches we distribute the Bibles in a detailed and organized way to each home, by streets, neighborhoods, districts and counties of Guanacaste. We have been doing this for few years now, as of 2015, we have distributed 35 000 Bibles already.

Your team can participate in this project by distributing Bibles during your outreach. You can purchase Bibles for your outreach through us. Your Bibles will be shipped among bigger orders we make and they will be here for your team to distribute when you arrive. You don't have to bring Bibles for distribution with you.

Please contact us for donation details and let us know how many Bibles your team would like to purchase.

Your church and team can also donate toward Bibles even if you don't want to distribute them yourselves.

**MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS:**

NAME OF THE TEAM: \_\_\_\_\_

DATES OF OUTREACH: \_\_\_\_\_

**RELEASE AGREEMENT**

I/We do hereby release Youth With A Mission, Costa Rica and Ministerios Rurales de Guanacaste, its agents, employees and volunteer assistants from any liability whatsoever arising out of any injury, damage or loss, which may be sustained by the applicant during the course of involvement with Youth With A Mission / Juventud Con Una Misión Costa Rica.

**Participant's**  
**signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

If the participant is under 18 years of age, signature of parent or responsible party is required.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONSENT FOR TREATMENT**

In case of accident or serious illness, I/We hereby agree to the performance of such treatment, anesthetics and procedures as deemed necessary in the opinion of the attending physician.

**Participant's**  
**signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

If the participant is under 18 years of age, signature of parent or responsible party is required.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATEMENT OF CONSENT**

During the outreach I will abide by the spirit and guidelines of Youth With A Mission Guanacaste, Costa Rica.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

# OUTREACH EVALUATION

Please take some time after your outreach to give us some feed back that will help us to improve and develop our ministry. Please send us answers to these questions by e-mail to [jucumguanacaste@gmail.com](mailto:jucumguanacaste@gmail.com)

Please share your stories, pictures and videos with us!

Thank you!

Team:

Dates:

Leader's name:

1. Your overall comments and impressions of the outreach
2. What did God do in your team?
3. Ministry highlights of your outreach
4. Two things we should not change
5. Two things you would like us to change
6. Your comments on:
  - 1 the outreach schedule
  - 2 the ministry
  - 3 food/housing/transportation
  - 4 free day
  - 5 hosts/translators
  - 6 YWAM ministry in Guanacaste
7. Anything else you would like to mention
8. Please write two testimonies of the outreach

## **MORE ABOUT US...**

Join our Facebook page: YWAM Guanacaste, Costa Rica  
Website: [www.ywamguanacaste.com](http://www.ywamguanacaste.com)

The Silva family was sent out from YWAM Heredia in September 2005 to minister to the small rural villages in the Nicoya Peninsula. Over the years God has grown the staff team and now we have many full-time missionaries from different ages, nations and backgrounds serving at YWAM Guanacaste. We work in different communities through English teaching, youth and soccer ministry, children's activities, camps for youth and children, short-term outreaches, Bible distribution, ministry to teenage moms, community development project and ministry with local churches. Our desire is to impact more and more communities with God's love. The biggest influence is given by living our everyday lives as part of these communities, giving a daily testimony through friendships.

We live and work in small countryside villages of Guanacaste, where the life is a mixture of spiritual, political, cultural and development issues. The area is beautiful by nature, mostly cattle farmlands. The Catholic religion has been mixed with naturalism, witchcraft, superstition and cultural heritage, it is characterized by a very strong cult of worshipping the virgin. This has brought confusion to the people and keeps them away from encountering God. Government institutions and helps don't often get to the small villages, the people feel alone, abandoned and out of reach of change and development. The macho-culture allows and expects the men to be irresponsible, alcoholics, abusive, men of many women and fathers of many children without really ever being part of their lives. The youth don't have opportunities to learning, hobbies, dreaming... they often don't finish their studies; they don't have hope for the future.

Many of these villages are without any Christian influence at all, some people have "tried" Christianity, but the only thing they saw in the local church was emotionalism and a strong charismatic influence without a solid foundation in the Word and Christians who don't live what they preach. Our base Family Nights have slowly grown to a solid group of locals gathering together every Monday night to hear the word of God. We are seeking God's guidance to grow it into a more formal church plant.

Our vision is to guide the people of Guanacaste to a personal relationship with God. As they learn to see themselves and their lives from God's perspective, we believe that will bring healing to the families and even biblical progress to whole communities. Through our ministry we want to see the youth of Guanacaste to find their identity in Christ, getting excited about life and start doing great things with and for God.

In practise our work includes many different kinds of tasks. At the base we usually run regular activities for children and youth from the closest villages. From the base we go out to work in other villages to work with local churches and pastors, to speak and teach in local schools, teaching English, organizing camps, outreaches, visits, working with handicapped children, implementing building and fixing projects, Bible distributing, evangelism, community development, work with the homeless etc. A big part of our time is used in practical jobs around the base, like cooking, administration and maintenance. Other part of our time is spent working with locals in the communities.

If you are interested to learn more about YWAM, there is a great book about the beginning of YWAM, "Is that really you, God?" by the founder, Loren Cunningham. You can also check out

the YWAM International website [www.ywam.org](http://www.ywam.org).

## **BANK TRANSFER INFORMATION**

**Beneficiary bank: Banco Nacional de Costa Rica**

**SWIFT/BIC code: BNCRCRSJ**

**Beneficiary name: Asociación Ministerios Rurales de Guanacaste MIRUG**

**Account number: 100-02-013-600494-6**

**IBAN number: CR5515101310026004946**

**Address: Apt 195, 5200 Nicoya, Guanacaste, Costa Rica**

**Bank address: calle 4, avenidas 1 y 3, San Jose, Costa RicaBank**

**Bank commission: \$10 (cover the expenses of your own bank, transfer amount+ \$10)**

### **CORRESPONSAL BANKS IN THE US AND CANADA:**

<b><i>SWIFT</i></b>	<b><i>ABA</i></b>	<b><i>BANK</i></b>
COSRUS3M	066011567	BICSA
BOFAUS3M	066007681	BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.
BKTRUS33	021001033	DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICA
IRVTUS3N	021000018	BANK OF NEW YORK
CHASUS33	021000021	J.P. MORGAN CHASE
CITIUS33	021000089	CITIBANK, N.A.
TDOMCATTOR	*****	TORONTO DOMINION BANK
PNBPUS3NNYC	 02600592	WACHOVIA BANK, N.A.