

FFMC YOUTH MINISTRIES

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

AUGUST 23 - 30, 2009




“Founded in 1937, Esperanza exists to promote healing and restoration in a place of peaceful refuge. The community of Esperanza (Spanish for Hope) is located on the west coast of Vancouver Island and is accessible only by boat or airplane. Today Esperanza offers hope, rest and healing to individuals and families facing various crises and sorrows. We believe that because Jesus died for our sins this restored relationship is possible.”

~Esperanza Ministries

FFMC YOUTH MINISTRIES

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ESPERANZA 2009 COVER LETTER

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Dear Youth and Parents of Youth,

As many of you have heard, our summer 2009 youth mission trip is to Esperanza. The dates of the trip are **August 23-30**. Esperanza is a mission dedicated to “offering hope, rest and healing to individuals and families facing various crises and sorrows” primarily to people of the First Nations (Native Canadian) tribes. Esperanza is located on the northwestern side of Vancouver Island, British Columbia and is only reachable by boat! I encourage you to check out www.esperanza.ca to learn more about who they are, their history, and what specific kinds of ministries in which they are engaged.

Joining FFMC will be youth, parents, and leaders from Shoreline Free Methodist Church (SFMC) and Warm Beach Free Methodist Church (WBFMC). This will be the third year that FFMC and SFMC have partnered together for a summer mission trip and my second year planning a summer mission trip with Steve Scott, SFMC Youth Pastor. Eric Barnes, WBFMC Youth Pastor, will also be part of the planning. I am looking forward to working with these two, seasoned youth workers.

Our purpose in doing a trip like this is threefold: 1) To provide a *cross-cultural/economic experience*; 2) To have a *shared experience of living out our faith* by serving Christ and others; 3) To *support* the Esperanza staff, joining in on the work God is doing in their midst. Specifically, our group will most likely help finish a number of remodels of various buildings and help transition their grounds from summer to fall ministries. There is also a possibility that we may be visiting people from the tribes in Tahsis, a neighboring town.

Because of the nature of this trip, it is vital that each team member displays a commitment to the purposes of our trip, as well as a high level of maturity and a “team player” attitude. That said, unlike other activities we do as a youth group, this is a trip that youth must apply for in order to go on in addition to a 30 minute interview (over the phone or in the church office) with me after the application has been submitted. Thus, youth may or may not be accepted. However, please don’t let that intimidate you! If you would like to be a part of the trip, I strongly encourage you to apply!

In the following pages, you will find an application as well as the criteria by which applicants will be considered. If you are a parent and would like to serve as a leader on the trip, please contact me for further discussion. ***Please take time in filling out the application and turn the Esperanza 2009 Trip Application portion into me no later than Sunday, March 29. The last day for interviews will be Wednesday, April 1. Sign up for interviews will be on my office door or contact me to coordinate a time. You will receive an acceptance e-mail by Friday, April 3. Feel free to contact me with any questions!***

Grace Be With You,

Stephanie Chatfield
Director of Youth Ministries



ESPERANZA 2009 TRIP INFORMATION

WHO CAN APPLY?

Those who are currently in the youth group and are in 8th-12th grade during the 2008-2009 school year may apply. This means seniors graduating in 2009 are still invited to apply (as they are also invited and encouraged to participate in youth activities through the summer...).

WHAT IS THE COST OF THE TRIP?

The cost of the trip will be no more than \$300 a person (and may decrease) plus the cost of a passport. Each participating youth will be responsible for earning/raising \$300 plus obtaining their passport on their own. There will be fundraising opportunities available through the youth program. To help lower the cost, we have decided to make the trip on the way there in one day and therefore will be leaving early in the morning Sunday, August 23. On the way back, we will be staying one night in Campbell River at a hotel to debrief our experience. This means leaving Esperanza Saturday morning after breakfast and arriving home Sunday evening.

WILL THERE BE PRE-TRIP OR POST-TRIP MEETINGS?

There are four pre-trip meetings and one post-trip meeting that we will have over the next seven months. *These meetings are mandatory* (though exceptions may be made due to pre-existing conflicts, ie. family vacations, etc...).

- ◆ *Sunday, April 5, Youth and Parent Informational Meeting, @ SFMC, 2:30-3:30 pm*
- ◆ *Sunday, May 17, Team BBQ, @ Carkeek Park, 1:00-5:00 pm*
- ◆ *Thursday, July 30, Team Meeting, @ SFMC, 6:30-8:30 pm*
- ◆ *Thursday, August 13, Team Meeting, @ SFMC, 6:30-8:30 pm*
- ◆ *Sunday, September 13, FFMC Team Meeting, @ FFMC, 12:30-2:00 pm*

***Please mark these dates on your calendars!!!

CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS

The following will be taken into consideration for each applicant:

- ◆ Must be a part of the FFMC youth group.
- ◆ Must be in 8th-12th grade for the 2008-2009 school year.
- ◆ Displays a level of spiritual and social maturity necessary for an international and cross-cultural trip.
- ◆ Displays an ability to submit to leadership.
- ◆ Displays an ability to effectively work as part of a team.
- ◆ Displays a willingness to commit to the goals and purposes of the Esperanza Mission Trip.
- ◆ Is willing to participate in all pre and post-trip meetings (with the exception of pre-existing conflicts).
- ◆ Is willing to be responsible for raising/earning \$300 plus passport costs.

ESPERANZA 2009 TRIP APPLICATION

Answer the following questions in the space provided or on an additional sheet of paper. You can also download the application from www.ffmc.org/youth to type your answers. Applications must be turned in no later than Sunday, March 29. Please remember to complete your 30 minute interview by Wednesday, April 1. The interview can be over the phone or in person.

Name _____ Grade _____

E-mail address _____

Describe your relationship with Jesus. Who is He to you?

What has God been teaching you lately?

Why do you want to go on the Esperanza mission trip?

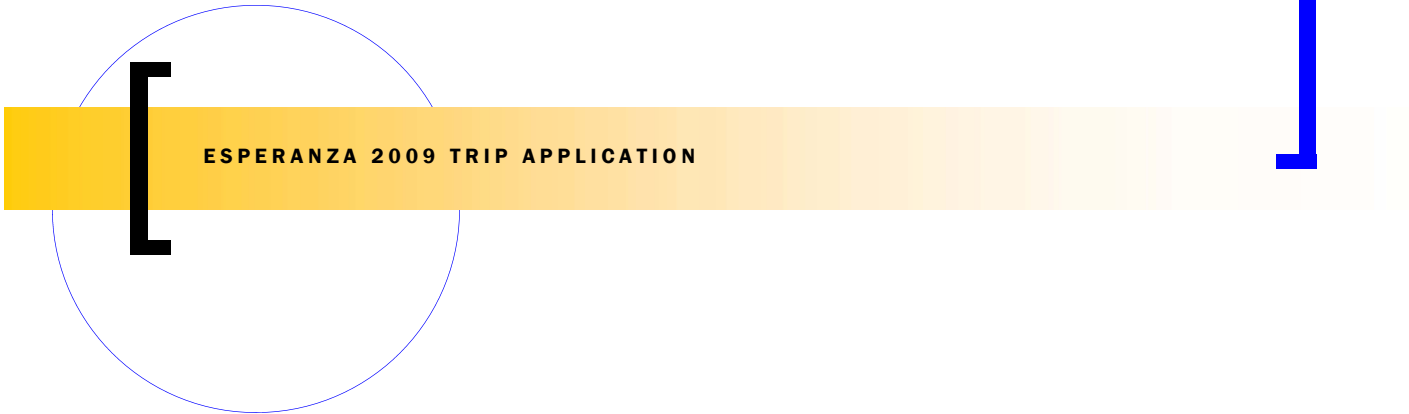
ESPERANZA 2009 TRIP APPLICATION

If you go on this trip, what are you hoping God will teach you through the experience?

Describe some of your personal strengths that you think would contribute to the Esperanza team?

Describe some weaknesses that you can foresee may be a challenge (stretching) in going on this trip?

When you are given a limit by an authority figure, are you likely to test it, or take extra precautions to respect it? How do you react to rules and restrictions?



ESPERANZA 2009 TRIP APPLICATION

What are your hopes and/or expectations about working with a group and being a part of a mission trip team?

Are you willing to attend and actively participate in all the pre and post-trip meetings with which you do not have pre-existing conflicts?

Please list any meetings that you cannot attend and why? (Know that we understand that there may be conflicts, yet the ability to participate in the training will be a factor in the acceptance of your application.)

Are you willing to complete any "homework" assignments that might be assigned for our training sessions?

Are you willing to be responsible for raising both the \$300 + passport fees on your own?

Are there any special concerns that we should be aware of? (List any medical conditions and food allergies).

Is there anything else you would like us to know?
