

BVSA DOES NOT HOST “MISSION TRIPS”

WE HOST PARTNER VISITS

HERE’S THE DIFFERENCE:

Traditional Mission Trips	BVSA Partner Visits
Open to anyone. Sign up, pay “x” amount and come on a mission trip. Ministry uses profits from teams to help fund ministry.	Open to our partners, friends, family, churches, financial supporters, etc. We charge a minimum amount that covers our expenses.
Come to Guatemala for a mission trip experience. Your hosts arrange projects to help make your special experience take place.	Come to Guatemala to do life with us and the Rhinos. As hosts, we basically welcome you into our life and ministry’s normal routine.
Focus is often on the spiritual growth of the visitors on the mission team. Much preparation is designed around specific experiences and exposures to happen that impact the visitors.	Focus is on the efforts of the ministry work. Effort is made to help the locals grow in <i>their</i> faith and be blessed. (By default, visitors are stretched and impacted!)
Not uncommon that the ministry and the visiting team members converse once a year, with the convo mostly centered around the mission trip.	Goal is that relationships, communication, prayer, and support, are constant throughout the year! Communication to and from the Rhinos, birthdays, events, involvement in their lives...
Lends itself to many first-time visitors and eye-opening experiences relative to third-world poverty. This can be a wonderful thing and we have relationships with team-hosting ministries for those who are looking for this model.	Lends itself to a lot of repeat visitors and supporters who are increasingly comfortable in the poverty, which leads to getting more involved in the deep-rooted problems and challenges that are faced. *see below
Friendships with locals and missionaries are formed but tend to weaken over time. In between visits, little to no contact is made which makes it tough to stay close. Much time is required to reconnect.	Friendships with locals and missionaries continues growing in between visits through steady prayer, support, letters, etc. With each visit, the partners are already up to speed and reconnect very quickly.

*We are not against having first-time visitors! We simply ask our partners to explain our philosophy to them on the front end. That is, that we encourage visitors who are at least interested in long-term partnership, transformational change, and growing deeper relationships. This distinction not only allows us to stay obedient to the calling of our ministry, but also helps prevent having disappointed mission team members who had different expectations in mind.