**LATCOM Short Term Mission Team Application**

**Work and Ministry Teams Frequently Asked Questions**

**Do I need a passport and visa?** Yes, you need a passport. Allow at least two months for the process of getting one. No advanced visa is needed for Bolivia; however, the visa costs $160.00 and will be granted upon arrival in the country. This fee will **NOT** be covered out of your total team funds. You will need the following things to take with you and have readily accessible upon arriving in Bolivia: Two passport size photos, two photo copies of your passport, an application form filled out that can be downloaded from the Bolivian embassy web site, $160 dollars for the visa, and a letter of invitation that we will provide for you from EPLABOL our mission in Bolivia.

**Do I need to speak Spanish?** Speaking their language is not essential. Many South Americans speak English; however, Bolivians will appreciate any attempt you make to speak Spanish. You may want to become familiar with common greetings and phrases.

**How much luggage is allowed?** You are permitted two pieces of check-in luggage, each weighing no more than 50 lbs., and two hand luggage pieces (one of which may be a purse or computer or camera bag). The less you carry, the easier it will be to get around. Some prefer to take clothing to leave with the people in the country after their stay, so they can fill their suitcases with souvenirs.

**Should I get inoculations?** Yes, they are necessary. Call your physician or local health department to arrange for shots. These will include: **Yellow Fever (required), Typhoid (required), Tetanus (required)**, and Hepatitis A & B (recommended). Malaria pills are advisable for Zapocó teams.

**What kind of clothing and other personal items should I bring?** This depends on the time of year and where in the country you are going. March is hot and humid in the jungle (Zapocó) and is moderate in the mountains (Monte Blanco at Tambo). June, July, and August are usually the dry months, with low humidity and the temperature ranging in the 70s to the 80s. From May – August it is possible to have cold weather in the 40’s and 50’s. Like most places, the weather can be unpredictable. Once we receive your application, we will send you a thorough equipment list that is appropriate for your team.

**Should I take travelers’ checks?** It is difficult to get travelers’ checks cashed. The best way to carry money is in U.S. Dollars, such as $20 and $50 dollar bills. Bolivians will exchange bills in these denominations, but not $1 or $5 dollar bills. Also, the bills **must** be in good condition, without any ink spots, rips, or holes. They will refuse to accept any imperfections in the bills due to their fear of counterfeit dollars.

**How safe is Bolivia?** We will not knowingly place a team or any of its members in danger! If events show potential risks we will either cancel a team or if already in country will seek to have them removed to safety as soon as possible. As a traveler, the biggest problems, if any, you will most likely encounter are petty thievery and an occasional crooked official. LATCOM will always seek to keep abreast of potentially dangerous political unrest and will act accordingly for your safety. When you send in your application, we will send you a list of simple precautions for traveling.