**DISCOVER NICARAGUA**

**Welcome to the Discover Nicaragua trip:**

We are delighted that you have chosen to share your time, treasure and talent with the poor of Nicaragua. It is our desire that participants return home enriched by their experiences and with a clearer sense of purpose of who God is and how he works in your life. These experiences offer unique opportunities to grow relationships with friends, parents and children of another culture. In addition it will allow you to deepen your walk with God and to experience His grace and faithfulness in new ways.

These Discovery trips raise awareness by exposing team members to ways of life and situations that are much different from our day to day lives. Upon returning home, team members are prepared to advocate for the people and countries they encounter within their circle of influence. These experiences enhance adults and student’s educational connections in the board room and classroom and help them to engage the culture from a broadened worldview understanding and perspective. Participants often will have a heightened awareness and sensitivity to cultural, religious and belief differences in a constructive way while remaining firmly anchored in the truth of scripture that all people are created equal regardless of their race, social or economic status.

**Objectives and Outcomes:**

* Learn to enter another culture as a servant and learner.
* Experience personal and spiritual growth.
* Learn that relationships and loving others are more important than completing a task. A key goal is to build long-lasting relationships with your host community members and return mobilized to enact change.
* Contribute to help meet the emotional, physical and spiritual needs in your host community.
* Learn to trust God for His provision and protection.
* Have a greater understanding and thankfulness for our provisions in the US.
* Understand how your Discovery trip is not an isolated incident – it is a part of God’s plan for your life to serve others.

Befriend the people you meet during your experience. Do not let the language and cultural barriers prevent you from getting to know the people and learning their culture. Focus on the areas you have in common. The people you encounter will soon forget the tasks you performed but they will forever remember the relationships you built with them and the love that you shared.

As you connect with people from another culture, plan to learn, grow, be challenged and be transformed. We will travel to Nicaragua not as saviors but to be used and be changed so that we may humbly serve others for the rest of our lives.