

Companion Synod  
**PERU Trip**

**PERU, PRAYER & PARTNERS**

**Required Getting Ready Event**

**May 19, 2012, 10 AM-2 PM**

**Immersion Trip**  
**FAQ's**

More questions? Contact Peggy Hahn at 832-594-5016

1. **What flights do I book myself?** Each person should make their own roundtrip reservations for the flight from the US to Lima. We will handle all your in-country travel needs including your excursion flight.
2. **Are there other costs for this trip?** Yes—you will buy your own dinner most nights, pay for some snacks and souvenirs that you may want to purchase. Plan for about \$15 per dinner. Most people spend less than \$100 on local purchases.
3. **Do I have to exchange money?** Yes—you can do this at the Lima airport or local Casa de Cambio.
4. **Can children and youth come on this trip?** Children ages 12-14 are welcome to travel with their parents. High school youth (ages 14 and older) are welcome to travel with an adult sponsor who will take responsibility for their care. A special release form will be required for everyone under age 18 to be signed by their parents or guardians.
5. **What if I have to cancel? Can we make substitutions?** A partial refund for the trip (\$500 for the Lima portion plus the cost of your excursion) is available before March 1. No refund can be made after March 1. Substitutions are encouraged but will not change the refund policy for in-country flights (Lima to Cusco or Lima to Iquitos). You are responsible for cancelling your flight from the US to Lima.
6. **What if I can't come to the Getting Ready Day?** The Getting Ready Day is required. It is a critical part of the whole experience. You don't want to miss the health care information, travel details, cultural sensitivities and community building important for a successful trip. Written information cannot substitute the conversations and face-to-face sharing that will prepare you for this faith journey.
7. **Are we doing a service project?** This is a cultural immersion experience. Various projects and events will be developed by local Peruvian congregations throughout our visit. These may not fall in the "service project" category as our main goal is to build relationships based on our shared faith. You will get more details about each day in Peru when we meet at the Getting Ready day in May.
8. **Do we have translators?** We will have local translators with us much of the time. We will also have some people in our group that are bilingual and can provide informal translation.
9. **Where will we stay?** We will stay in a hotel in Miraflores, a District of Lima. Accommodations in Cusco and Iquitos are near the town square in hotels. All hotels are safe, clean and near local restaurants.
10. **Where do we eat?** Breakfast will be in our hotel, lunch and some dinners will be in local congregations. Most dinners will be in local restaurants that have been "approved" by local leaders. We do not eat salad, fresh fruit that we do not peel ourselves, water (bottled only, even for brushing teeth) and ice in drinks, etc. Again, more on this at the Getting Ready day.
11. **What do I bring?** Bring a photocopy of your passport. A packing list is on the synod website and will be sent out to you after registration. Remember it is winter when we are in Peru in June! We leave valuables at home. Cameras and video equipment are fine.
12. **Will my cell phone work?** Check with your cell phone provider about international calling. Rates will increase. Emergency information will be provided.
13. **Will I have internet access?** Our hotels have internet access and computers available.
14. **How do we travel in Peru?** Most travel on land will be in 15 passenger vans.
15. **What shots do I need?** Talk with your doctor. Health guidelines will be available on the synod webpage.
16. **Can I bring my children?** It is recommended that children be over age 12. Parents must accompany children between the ages of 12-14. High School students may be accompanied by a sponsor over age 21.