



LEARNING AND FELLOWSHIP TOUR

**Ecuadorian Rainforest
Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer
Mennonite Mission Network**

Proposed Dates: March 9-23, 2018 (15 days)

Have you ever wondered what it's like to travel by boat into the Amazon basin? To meet followers of Christ who speak Cofán, Kichwa and Shuar? To learn about indigenous churches while experiencing the rainforest as God originally created it?

We invite you to join Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer and their four children – Sierra, Naomi, Teresa and Jordan – on a pilgrimage to the Equator. The Ross Richers are in their fourth year of walking alongside indigenous church leaders in a two-way mission that brings them to Ecuador for six months each year.

We will visit church leaders and their families and encourage them as they seek ways to worship and serve within their unique cultural contexts. This is an opportunity to discover some surprising similarities between traditional indigenous worldviews and the Biblical worldview as we listen and share together. Sing and hear praises to our creator, redeemer and sustainer in new languages and deepen your understanding of the interconnectedness of God's people.

You'll be inspired by stories of Christians involved in successful efforts to conserve the land that is the foundation of their native cultures. We'll have a chance to interact with Cofán in the village of Zábalo and learn how they are protecting their distinct customs and traditions while adapting to the changes brought by globalization – all of this while experiencing the marvel of God's creation in an area known for its peak diversity in plants, birds, mammals and amphibians, one of the "wildest places on earth".

Join us on a journey of discovery in the Amazon rainforest as we take part in God's reconciling work in the world -- reconciling ourselves to God, to others, to God's creation, and to ourselves.



You will be physically and spiritually challenged in up-close encounters, learning about issues you care deeply about – Christian faith, social justice, caring for God's creation. Take some time away from your busy North American routine to listen to God and grow in your faith with a group of likeminded believers as we walk alongside our neighbors living along the Equator.

- Worship experiences with indigenous Christians
- Interactions with village leaders and children
- Opportunities to experience the wild beauty of God's creation
- Tours of historically- and culturally-important places with English speaking guides
- Interactions with local indigenous people (English translation as needed)
- Physically-demanding settings and spiritually-challenging experiences
- Daily devotional readings and time set aside for group reflection

Cost \$2,100 per-person – includes roundtrip airfare from Chicago to Quito and all meals, lodging, guides and transportation by bus and motorized canoe.

Accommodations In Quito and Tena, we will stay at lodges designed for international travelers, featuring single or double beds, private bathrooms and internet. In Zábalo, we will spend six days at a lodge with more rustic accommodations, including single beds with mosquito nets, shared bathrooms with flush toilets, sinks and cold showers, and no internet, trading creature comforts for the opportunity to see new creatures – like Amazon River turtles and Woolly monkeys!

Vaccinations Consult your doctor at least four weeks before departure to arrange for necessary vaccines and medicines. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has specific recommendations at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/ecuador>.

Registration To sign-up for the tour or request more information, please contact: Laurina Graber-Ditzler at laurina.graber@gmail.com or Elizabeth Gingrich at lizing@gmail.com.

Deposit and Payment We will collect \$1,000 deposits until the tour reaches capacity. Make your deposit as soon as possible to guarantee a spot, and no later than January 5, 2018. Make your check payable to "Two Way Mission" and mail it to Laurina Graber-Ditzler, 507 South 7th Street, Goshen, IN 46526. Final payment of \$1,100 is due February 1, 2018.

Orientation Session Monday, December 11 at 7:00 pm at Waterford Mennonite Church