

INTRODUCTION

It has been said that the world has become a “global village.” Travel gives individuals a different perspective on their lifestyle and their faith. We in SAMS Ireland believe if it is possible to give people a chance to visit the Church in South America and Iberia, the experience will be life-changing life will never be the same again!

BTN! Beyond the Norm! is the title for the SAMS Ireland Volunteer Service Programme which desires to place people of all ages in suitable projects in South America, Spain and Portugal. SAMS chose this title “Beyond the Norm” because we believe that the experience people have in the team will be beyond what is normal.

WHY WILL YOU BE THERE?

The BTN team is usually a response to the National Church and they will be the ones who will organise your work plan and structure the day to day activity. You

are there to assist the national church in its work to further develop and nurture its people. Your work will be whatever needs to be done!

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

In places the accommodation and facilities may be quite basic.

☺ You may have hot and cold running water - hot in summer and cold in winter! In some places running water is classed as luxury! However you are there to “fit into” and adapt to the situation and not be a burden to the Christians who are there.

☺ You will normally be living in the area where you will be working and there will be many opportunities to meet and have fellowship with the local community.

☺ You will have a first hand experience of



what the work of a Mission Partner is like and the issues they are confronted with on a daily basis.

While serving in the overseas church it is always worth trying to learn some of the language in order that you are not a strain on the Mission Partners. You should not expect them to be your own personal interpreter and guide. Your primary reason for being there is to be a servant.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

There already have been many BTN! Teams which have worked in many parts of Iberia and South America. Team places are strictly on a first come, first served basis, subject to interview and if a team is over-subscribed a waiting list will be compiled.

If you are selected then you will be responsible for your own finance and support. Most of this can be raised with the help of your Church and your own fund raising events. Your expenses will include flights, payment for food, taxi fares, spending money etc.. We would also ask that when you are raising finance you would consider making a donation to the general work of SAMS Ireland.

A team member does not need to have academic qualifications, but we do need you to possess spiritual ones! A healthy spiritual life will be a benefit, not only to the other team members, but also for the church you will be working alongside.

The requirements for a team place are:

Reasonably fit and healthy

☞ Ability to work well within a Team setting

☞ Flexible approach to life

☞ Adaptable in your nature

☞ Seeking to fulfil Christ's commands

☞ Aged between 17 - 140!

If you can meet these requirements then the SAMS Ireland BTN! Team could be for you!

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BTN!

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