

INDIVIDUALLY ARRANGED CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY PROPOSAL

Culture/Country of Choice: Hispanic Culture of Cleveland, TN

Program/Church (if applicable): Old Tasso Iglesia de Dios Hispanic Church

Travel Dates/Duration of Study: 11 weeks, Sunday April 17 through Monday, July 4

Supervisor/Main Contact: Mr. Smith

Contact Phone Number: Cell # 555-5555, Church # 555-5562

Contact E-mail: N/A

Accommodations (if applicable): N/A

Description of Activities:

For my individually-arranged cross-cultural experience, I would like to attend the Old Tasso Iglesia de Dios Hispanic church for 12 weeks. It is located at 3815 Tasso Road in Cleveland, TN. Services are held on Sundays from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM, Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00 PM, and there is a prayer service on Monday evenings from 7:30-8:30. I plan to attend services every Sunday and Monday beginning April 17 and ending July 4. I will be taking one Sunday off (May 8) because it is Mother’s Day and I would like to be at home with my son, and I will not be attending Wednesday night services because of prior commitments to my church. Because Sunday services last approximately three hours and Monday services last approximately one hour, this will be a total of 45 hours. The church offers a Vacation Bible School during the summer and the pastor has indicated that I may be involved with that. I would also like to spend time with some of the church members outside the church setting, perhaps having a meal with them or visiting them in their homes and I plan to invite some to my home for a meal. Below is a more detailed schedule of the hours I plan to attend the church. In the event that I have to miss a day due to illness or some other unforeseen event, I will add hours to this schedule beyond the dates listed below.

45-HOUR INTERACTION REQUIREMENT:

<u>Daily Itinerary</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Sunday, April 17	11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	3 hours
Monday, April 18	7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	1 hour
Sunday, April 24	11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	3 hours
Monday, April 25	7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	1 hour
Sunday, May 1	11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	3 hours
Monday, May 2	7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	1 hour
Sunday, May 9	11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	3 hours
Monday, May 15	7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	1 hour
Sunday, May 16	11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	3 hours
Monday, May 22	7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	1 hour
Sunday, May 23	11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	3 hours
Monday, May 29	7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	1 hour
Sunday, May 30	11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	3 hours
Monday, June 5	7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	1 hour
Sunday, June 6	11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	3 hours
Monday, June 13	7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	1 hour
Sunday, June 19	11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	3 hours
Monday, June 20	7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	1 hour
Sunday, June 26	11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	3 hours
Monday, June 27	7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	1 hour
Sunday, July 3	11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	3 hours
Monday, July 4	7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	1 hour
(2) Meals/Fellowship with Hispanic Family	TBA	6 hours
Vacation Bible School luncheons	11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	4.5

TOTAL = 55.5 HOURS

Based on your daily itinerary, list the goals you plan to accomplish:

I think it will be an enlightening experience to see how a culture other than my own worships, especially since I have never been to a church of another culture. It will be especially interesting to view how diverse worship is right here in my hometown. I already see myself as having respect for other cultures, but this experience, through the case studies and regular interactions, will greatly add to my understanding of diversity. I am interested in discovering the ways in which my culture and the Hispanic culture are both different and similar. I would like to find out how different the culture is for Hispanic families who have grown up here in Cleveland just as I have; I am sure there are many differences that I have never thought about.

I hope to gain a better understanding of how their culture relates to other cultures including my own. I also want to know if their cultural values, traditions, or behaviors have changed over the years. I also want to find out if there are any differences in how they value food. The obesity problem here in America is so vast and I want to know how or if obesity affects Hispanics. Attempting to adapt to the church will be a challenge as I am rather shy.

Explain how you believe this experience will fulfill the academic objectives of the cross-cultural requirement:

Although I have taken Spanish classes, I am still not very confident in my Spanish-speaking abilities. This will give me a chance to improve my foreign language and become comfortable learning to interact with a culture I am not familiar with. Even when I feel uncomfortable, which I'm sure will happen at first, I will remember that the members of the church have felt the same feelings as me. At some time in their lives, they too have been faced with a language and culture they do not completely understand, and they have thrived and grown. I expect to do the same through this experience.

From conducting my interviews I will gain an understanding of the cultural beliefs and values. I will be able to compare the role of family within the Hispanic culture with that of my own. During the church services I will be able to learn the impact religion has on their lives. I believe this experience will fulfill the objectives of the cross-cultural requirements because I will be interacting with a wide variety of Hispanics. I will be exposed to differing perspectives ranging from school age (Vacation Bible School) to elders in the church.

I am looking forward to the experiences the next couple of months will bring. There is no way to foresee what I will learn, but I am sure I will gain valuable knowledge.