



CROSSWAY  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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[www.crosswaycc.org/serve/global-ministries](http://www.crosswaycc.org/serve/global-ministries)

## El Salvador Ministry Trip

November 4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2017

### Los Abelines, El Salvador

The Abelines region is comprised of 11 remote villages in the mountainous northeastern part of El Salvador. It is approximately 2000 meters above sea level and has an estimated population of 19,572. The closest town, Ciudad Barrios, is about a 50 minute drive or a three-hour walk. Most homes in this area are headed by single women. The average resident has a third-grade education and is involved in small-scale agriculture providing food for the household and sometimes a small amount left over to sell. Most live on less than one dollar per day as subsistence farmers who rent or own less than five acres of land for the production of traditional crops (corn, beans and sorghum).



ENLACE  
[en-lah-say]  
link, connect, form a relationship



### ENLACE

Since 1993, ENLACE has been equipping church and community leaders to identify, design and manage sustainable initiatives in El Salvador. Their projects include water systems, micro-loans, preventative health education, health clinics, new homes, sanitation facilities, and agriculture development, to name just a few.

ENLACE commits to a 10 year relationship with a local church in El Salvador; then equips church leaders to become effective agents of change as they grow to understand who they are as a body of believers, listen to their community, and respond to opportunities for developing sustainable solutions for poverty. This engagement in the community builds bridges through which the love of Christ can be extended.

You can visit ENLACE online at [www.enlaceonline.org](http://www.enlaceonline.org) and learn more about our partner community at [www.enlaceonline.org/los-abelines-community/](http://www.enlaceonline.org/los-abelines-community/).

### Our Work

We support the long-term work of ENLACE and IGLESIA PIEDRA ANGULAR (CORNERSTONE CHURCH) and take our cue from them. Iglesia Piedra Angular is an advocate for the entire Abelines region; our partnership with them extends to supporting other churches in the area. We will potentially be involved in a variety of activities depending upon the needs of the community and the make-up of our team. Some possibilities include: building eco-stoves, construction of a pedestrian bridge, houses and/or latrines; road construction; conducting nutritional programs; clean-up campaigns; and home gardens.

While our primary activities may involve manual labor or teaching a prepared lesson, the ultimate goal of our trip is to encourage and empower the Salvadorans we encounter. We encourage team members to engage with

the Salvadorans they meet, building relationships and asking questions. We won't judge the success of this trip by how much we built or how many we taught; a successful trip reminds the Salvadorans of their value as human beings and the living hope Christ extends to them through His love.

## **Our Team**

We send a select team of up to 16 people from Crossway. Applicants who are not an active part of Crossway must be involved in a local church and have a reference from their pastor. Preference will be given to applicants from Crossway.

Crossway requires a Short-term Ministry Trip application and an interview for anyone interested in participating. Due to accommodation and logistical restraints, we are unable to take everyone. Although it is less rigorous than our missions to Kenya, this trip is not a "nice trip" to a "nice place." This experience places demands on you physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually as you pour yourself out for other people in very difficult circumstances.

The preparation we do as a team will determine the success of our trip. It will involve team-building activities, planning projects, cross-cultural education, watching films, and discussing logistics. Although we will communicate important information, these meetings form the foundation of a cohesive, well prepared team. For this reason, it is extremely important for you to attend all the team meetings.

## **Logistics and Safety**

**APPLICATIONS, \$150 DEPOSIT and a COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT** are due on or before **June 25th, 2017**. If your application is accepted, the deposit is non-refundable.

At present **EL SALVADOR IS A SAFE COUNTRY** to visit. Should El Salvador become unsafe and the US Government recommend avoiding travel to El Salvador prior to or during the week we've scheduled, we will not go. During the trip we will take steps such as traveling in (at least) pairs, remaining with our local guides, avoiding certain places at night, etc.

The **WATER** is not safe to drink. We will use bottled or treated water for drinking and brushing our teeth. However, it is safe (and encouraged) to take showers.

The **FOOD** is safe, relatively speaking. Any time you eat you are taking a risk. While care is taken in the preparation of our food, the risk of picking up a bug for Americans while eating in El Salvador is greater than when eating in the United States. With that said, the risk is not any greater than in any similar Latin American country. We would be surprised if there was any illness beyond an occasional stomach bug. But, in the words of a veteran missionary to Kenya, "This is why we pray before we eat."

The trip will **COST** approximately \$1,500, which will cover everything you will need – airfare, lodging, transportation, and food – except for your passport, immunizations, and spending money. **AIRFARE** is due by **August 20th, 2017** and will cost approximately \$650. Because El Salvador uses the US Dollar, there is no need to exchange money in country (we do recommend you bring small bills).

Regarding **IMMUNIZATIONS**, you may want to schedule an appointment with the Nashua Travel Clinic and follow through on recommended immunization and disease prevention. More than likely, this will involve a tetanus, diphtheria (Td) or tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) booster at minimum.