

Other Information

Safety

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. 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."



Immunizations

Regarding immunizations, you may want to schedule an appointment with a Travel Clinic and follow through on recommended immunization and disease prevention.

Next Steps

APPLICATIONS, \$150 DEPOSIT and a COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT are due on or before June 24th, 2018. If your application is accepted, the deposit is non-refundable.

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.



El Salvador

Outreach Trip

November 10th - 17th 2018



Our Ministry Partner: 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.enlace.link to learn more about them.

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.



Our Work

The Abelines School Center is the only local school that serves Abelines and its six surrounding communities. The school was built in 2004, and its infrastructure is in urgent need of attention. Due to the annual six-month rainy season, a portion of the perimeter wall has been eroding, causing serious damage to the surrounding mesh fence. Additionally, the water drainage issues associated with the eroded area and adjacent latrines has become a very worrying issue to both teachers and parents.

The team will help with the construction and repair of a retaining wall and perimeter fence at the local school center.

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.



Where are we going? 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).

Cost

The trip will cost approximately \$1,600, 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 5th and will be 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).

