

Short Term Missions Trip Guidelines for San Miguel, El Salvador

(Updated August 2009)

1. Please prepare and send a list of all team members grouped (single, double or triple) as they desire to stay in the hotel. Please specify who is the team leader, this will be the person we will stay in communication with prior to the trip. Their names must be complete and as they appear on their passports. Please expand on the list of all team members by adding their e-mail address, sex, age, relationship with their roommate, include their mission experience, and any special talents that may be used on the mission field like speaking Spanish, preaching, music, paint board presentations, working with youth or children. Please also include any special needs anyone may have, handicaps, or any kind of difficulties. You may prepare this in table form or written out. Please be sure we have this information at least one month prior to the trip. This gives us the necessary time to make all the proper arrangements for the best possible experience for your trip.

We need: Rooming specifications, Full Names, e-mail address, sex, age, relationship with roommate, mission experience, special talents, and special needs.

2. Every team arranges for their own transportation itinerary and cost. We will need the detailed flight information both for arrival and departure to coordinate your transportation. You will fly into El Salvador's International Airport called Comalapa and abbreviated SAL. Continental has two flights daily from Houston, American has two flights daily from Miami, one from Los Angeles and Delta has one flight daily from Atlanta. TACA also has a number of flights from a variety of locations daily into El Salvador. There is a \$10.00 fee for a tourist visa upon entering the country.

We need: your complete itinerary

3. The hotel you will be staying in is the Hotel Tropico Inn in the heart of San Miguel. Here is a link that can give you a bit of information about the hotel: <http://www.southtravels.com/america/elsalvador/hotelestropicoinn/>

The hotel provides single, double and triple occupancy rooms at the daily cost of \$47.50, \$58.50 and \$70.50 respectively. This price includes tax and a buffet breakfast that is served Monday through Friday mornings. A few amenities include free Wireless Internet in the rooms, 24 hour security, laundry facilities, a restaurant, air conditioning and a pool.

Every team member will additionally need money for their lunch and dinner meals and any extra costs they might run into like souvenirs or phone calls. Food runs about the same cost in San Miguel as it does in the states. A fast food meal is about \$6, a restaurant meal can be anywhere from \$8-\$15 per meal.

4. Every team member helps to cover the cost of the logistics for the week. This is \$150.00 per person. This money needs to be carried to San Miguel in cash US Dollars and will be collected during the initial orientation meeting usually scheduled on the first or second day of the trip depending upon the arrival time of the team members. Please place \$150.00 cash into an envelope and write the name of the team member and the team name (usually a church) on the outside of the envelope. This will cover each team member's gospel tracts, Bible literature, evangelistic stickers, vehicles, gas, transportation, drivers, translators, permissions, fees and other infrastructure materials and logistics that will be needed and used during the mission trip week or are related to the work in San Miguel. For clarification, if your team is of 10 people, you will bring a total of \$1,500.00 to cover the cost for your team.

5. Every team member also needs to come supplied with hand sanitizer, a flash light, a hat, sun block, insect repellent, pain reliever, anti-itch cream, Imodium in case of diarrhea, an intestinal infection antibiotic (Cipro is the best), anti allergy medication if they have allergies, and a poncho or umbrella (during the rainy season: May through October trips).

We would also ask that each team member bring one 5 (five) pound bag of their very favorite yummy individually wrapped US candy (Sam's, Costco, Wal-Mart, Target), any variety will be fine, and give that to Steve Kern during orientation with the \$150.00 per person. This will be used in conjunction with all ministries to children and youth. It is also recommended when traveling to Central America that every team member also be current on their Tetanus vaccine and have received both the Hepatitis A and B series of vaccines.

6. Regarding dress and clothing we recommend light weight, comfortable, modest, cotton clothing and comfortable closed shoes. The weather in San Miguel is hot and humid. No suits, jackets or ties are necessary for the men for any reason. Ladies may wear pants, capris, skirts, or dresses. No shorts are allowed for any ministry activity for men or women but may be used during the down time at the hotel. The hotel has a pool so you may come prepared to use those facilities if you wish.

You need to bring all of the following:

- \$150 per person
- light weight comfortable clothes
- A 5 (five) pound bag of candy
- Sun block
- insect repellent
- Pain reliever
- Insect bite cream
- Imodium, Cipro
- Hand Sanitizer
- Flashlight
- Hat
- Poncho or Umbrella (May to October)
- Money for meals, souvenirs, and phone calls etc

7. Please hold periodic meetings with your team members with the goal to spend time in prayer for the trip and to also train and practice in personal evangelism. Please be sure each team member can confidently and effectively share the gospel using Bible verses, something like the Roman Road is good, be able to lead a person to Christ in prayer, counsel them with basic Christian growth follow up for a new believer and address common reasons for not receiving Christ as Savior. Please also be sure each team member is able to effectively share their testimony. It is helpful for them to think this through and possibly even have it written ahead of time (Include History/Heritage, Heroes, High points, Hard times, and the Hand of God in their life)

8. Contact numbers for team member's families:

- Steve Kern's home phone El Salvador – 011-503-2246-4757
- Steve's Cell phone – 011-503-7899-2923
- Iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva – 011-503-2274-8575
- Crowne Plaza Hotel – 011-503-2257-0700 or 011-503-2500-0700,
- FAX 011-503-2257-0710
- Steve Kern Home Broad Band Internet phone with USA area code – 205-683-4033
- Steve Kern e-mail addresses: gnaes@telesal.net or steven_kern@hotmail.com

We are looking forward to seeing you on a future trip to San Salvador, El Salvador.
May God Bless you!