

Guidelines Sheet for a Good News in Action Mission trip to

San Miguel, El Salvador. April 2024

This guidelines sheet has been specially designed for you, a person who is either considering a GNIA trip to San Miguel, El Salvador, or who has already signed up for a trip to that destination and is working hard on getting either yourself or a whole team ready for the trip. Please read the guidelines sheet all the way through to the end. It is designed to answer all your questions, totally prepare you or what lies ahead on your trip and to inform you exactly what GNIA needs from you and by when. Thank you in advance for your attentiveness to this sheet. We look forward to seeing you very soon!

FAQ's

1. Where is San Miguel located and what is some helpful information about it?

- San Miguel is located in the eastern portion of El Salvador at an elevation of 200 feet above sea level. It is El Salvador's third most populous city with a population of just under 600,000. It is located about 86 miles from the capital city of San Salvador and about 60 miles from the airport. At first glance you will notice that San Miguel is surrounded by both the majestic San Miguel and Chinameca volcanos, neither of which are active. The entire city was virtually destroyed by a volcanic eruption in 1917 and was rebuilt at that time. San Miguel is currently a very important commercial center for the eastern part of El Salvador. Industries such as textiles and agriculture are common. Rope and leather goods are produced there as well as henequen (a fiber twine), grains, coffee, cotton, and sugarcane. The people of San Miguel are simple, very hard working, and very receptive to the gospel and God's Word. San Miguel is not a modern city, but rather a pueblo that has just grown to the size of a city. The climate in San Miguel can be described as follows:



- On average, the temperatures and humidity are always high. (95 F and 80% humidity during the day)
- A lot of rain (the rainy season) falls between the months of May and October.
- San Miguel has dry periods in from November through April.
- On average, the warmest month is April, the coolest month is January, September is the wettest month, and February is the driest month.

2. How will I get to San Miguel, El Salvador?

You will fly into El Salvador's International Airport (SAL) (also known as Monseñor Óscar Arnulfo Romero International Airport). Airlines such as United, American, Delta, Volaris, Avianca, Copa, and Spirit all fly into El Salvador. Every team or individual is responsible for securing their own plane tickets and travel insurance if they so desire. Please feel free to choose the flight that best suits you or your team. Be prepared to pay a \$12 tourist visa upon entry into El Salvador. Have exact change. This visa will be stamped into your passport when you go through Immigration at the airport. Be prepared to tell the immigration official that you will be staying at the Hotel Tropico Inn in San Miguel. Once through Immigration and customs, exit the building. Just outside you will be met by a church leader who will lead you to your transportation to San Miguel. The drive to San Miguel from the airport is about, 60 miles and will take about 90 minutes.

3. **Are there any forms to fill out while on the flight to SAL?** No. You will present your passport to the customs official, and they will get your tourist visa set up. The cost is \$12 per person.

4. **What will your arrival procedure look like?**

When you get off your plane, follow the crowd down the halls (possibly including an escalator depending upon which terminal you land at) towards immigration. Get in the lane marked for visitors. You will be assigned an immigration officer when one becomes available. Usually this is done on an individual basis even if you are traveling with family. Once you have completed the immigration process and purchased your tourist visa for \$12, you may proceed to your baggage pick up area to your right, they are well marked, each airline has its own area. Once you have your baggage in hand you will walk towards the customs area. You will hand the customs officer your passport. You may be asked to run your suitcase(s) through a large x-ray machine. Once the customs process is completed, please exit the building, and make an immediate turn to your left, walk out towards the sidewalk in front of the airport for pick up. Prior to your arrival you will be given the name of the person or persons who will be picking you up as well as what kind of vehicle to expect.

5. **Where will the mission team stay while in San Miguel?**

The mission team will be accommodated at the Hotel Tropico Inn in San Miguel according to the team list that we receive 8 weeks prior to the trip. Please use their website to explore all the details and amenities of the hotel.

<https://tropicoinn.com.sv/en/hotel>

Prices:

Standard Room, Single Occupancy: \$60 per night

Standard Room, Double Occupancy \$70 per night

Standard Room, Triple Occupancy \$85 per night.

The hotel also offers Superior Suites (Single \$67 and Double \$80 per night), Junior Suites (\$97 per night Single or Double), and Master Suites (\$125 per night Single or Double).

The main differences between the Standard rooms and the suites are additional spaces and additional amenities such as Iron and ironing board, a mini refrigerator, and a hair dryer.

The hotel prices include a very nice breakfast and wifi internet throughout the hotel facility. The hotel also offers a pool and gym. We will make and manage your reservations for you.

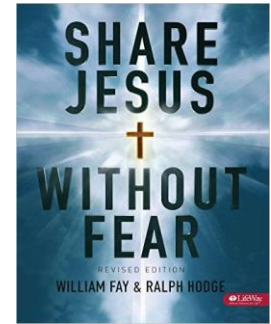
As a side note, there are two grocery stores located nearby the hotel. There is a Super Selectos that is about 3 blocks away located in the Plaza Jardin, and El Super El Rodeo, just 2 blocks away. There are also several pharmacies within walking distance. You will be able to find an abundance of bottled water at any one of those locations, as well as many delicious snacks.

6. **What do I need to do to be best prepared for my mission trip to San Miguel?**

Preparation is so very important. Your spiritual preparation is probably the most important. All team members **must be** formally trained in an approved course in Evangelism and be highly competent in sharing the gospel using a standardized method, leading a person to Christ, and explaining the first steps of the New Life in Christ to people both one on one and in group settings. (you will always be provided with a translator if you do not speak Spanish)

What standardized training methods are approved?

- The 3-week training program “Share Jesus Without Fear”
- Evangelism Explosion training program
- The Billy Graham School of Evangelism Online
<https://billygrahamonline.com/training/soe/courses/>
- The Four Spiritual Laws and the Roman Road
- The Three Circles Method



Approved evangelism tools during the trip include:

- The Wordless Book or Evangelism bracelets or necklaces with the presentation well memorized as well as the verses
- The Big Question Gospel Tract <http://www.goodnewsinaction.org/how-to-become-a-christian/>
- The Evangelism Cube
- If there is another tool you would like to use, please consult Steve Kern for approval.



<p>It reminds us of Heaven. It also makes us think about God, who lives in Heaven. The Bible teaches us that God made everything, including you and me. What does God see when He looks at you? Does He see somebody who makes Him happy?</p>	<p>When God sees everything we do, He knows us very well. The Bible says that when God looks at us, He sees that everyone has done bad things. The color BLACK reminds us of these bad things, which God calls sin. Because God is holy, our sin must be judged and paid for.</p>	<p>God loves us so much that He sent Jesus, His only son, to pay for our sin. The color RED reminds us of when Jesus suffered, and bled, and died on a cross for you and me. Jesus then rose from the dead, proving that He has won the battle over sin and death.</p>	<p>WHITE makes us think of things that are clean. The Bible says we can be clean in God's sight by admitting that we are sinful, turning to God, and putting our trust in Jesus. When we do that, He makes us ready for Heaven, and gives us a brand new life to live for Him.</p>	<p>Living things grow. That's what GREEN reminds us of. God wants us to grow in our new life. One very important way we grow is by reading the Bible. Another is by speaking with God in prayer. God also wants us to grow by helping each other and gathering with other Christians.</p>
GOD	SIN	JESUS	NEW LIFE	GROWTH
<p>God looked down from Heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that ... did seek God. <i>Psalms 53:2</i></p>	<p>Every one of them is gone back; they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. <i>Psalms 53:3</i></p>	<p>But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. <i>Romans 5:8</i></p>	<p>Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. <i>Isaiah 1:18</i></p>	<p>As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. <i>1 Peter 2:2</i></p>



7. What else do I need to do to be prepared? Decide if you need any of the recommended vaccines.

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/el-salvador>

- Routine vaccines: MMR, DPT or DT, Chickenpox, Polio and your yearly flu shot.
- Typhoid
- Hepatitis A

8. What does Good News in Action need from you and when?

We will need your complete team list and flight information **no later than 8 weeks prior to your trip**. This is so we can make all your arrangements and get prepared for all the logistics on our end. Please send your complete roster as described below and your complete flight information to goodnewsinactionelsalvador@gmail.com no later than 8 weeks prior to your trip. You will be provided with an Excel sheet for your roster.

Please include all the following in your roster (there is a column for each item already built into the Excel Sheet):

- The full legal name for every team member as it appears on their valid US passport.
- The team members grouped as they desire to stay in the hotel (single, double, triple)
- The US passport number for each person
- The gender and age for each person
- The relationship among roommates as applicable
- The email address for each team member
- A short list of past mission's experience for each team member
- A notation of any special talent(s) a team member might have such as Spanish, Preaching, Music, Paint Board Presentations, Gospel Dramas, Sports, Medical or Working with Children.
- A notation of any special needs a team member might have such as a handicap or medical concern
- A list of Prescriptions a team member is taking.

The TEAM ROSTER must be written out in a, Excel Document that will be provided by GNIA.

9. What are all the costs associated with the trip and what does an average budget look like?

- Your airline cost and hotel stay (your breakfast is included in your hotel stay).
- Lunch and Dinner money (We recommend about \$20-25 per day). There are a variety of options for lunch and dinner each day. The hotel has a very good restaurant. Additionally, right in front of the hotel and in very close walking distance there are several fast-food restaurants such as Wendy's, Burger King, Pollo Campero, and Pollo Campestre. Finally, there are two malls that have food courts, one is Metrocentro and the other is Centro Comercial El Encuentro. When the calendar for the mission trip week is made, we will schedule in the variety of options throughout the week for the lunch and dinner meals.)



1. Hotel Tropic Inn
2. Pizza Hut (3.5 blocks)
3. Pollo Campestre (2 block & Right across the Roosevelt Avenue, in front the hotel)
4. La Pastelería: Cakes and sweet bread (3 Blocks)
5. Little Cesar Pizza (Right across the Roosevelt Avenue, in front the hotel)
6. Emma Donuts (Right across the Roosevelt Avenue, in front the hotel)
7. El Asador (Beef, Steak and more Right across the Roosevelt Avenue)
8. Burger King (1 Block)
9. Pollo Campero (1.5 Blocks)
10. Wendys (2 Blocks)
11. Acajutla Sea Food (2.5 blocks)
12. Subway, Dominos Pizza. (2.5 Blocks)
13. Super Selectos (Grocery Store, 3 blocks)
14. La Tartaleta, Coffee and Bistro. (3 Blocks)

- Water bottles
- Souvenirs
- Medical treatment or Medicine in the event someone gets sick
- Phone calls to the states
- An offering for the church on Sunday
- One 5-pound bag of your favorite candy to be used in all outreaches that involves children (please bring this with you)
- One ball (soccer or basketball please) you may deflate, we will reinflate in country.
- Family Festival or Mother's day prizes (optional)
- A logistical fee as follows:

Every team member helps to cover the cost of the logistics for the week. This is **\$300.00 per person.** (Effective July 1, 2024)

Please carry this money to El Salvador in cash US Dollars (\$20 and \$10 bills only please) and turn it in during the initial orientation meeting.

Each team member's fee should be placed in a sealed envelope with that team member's name written on the outside. The Logistical Fee will help cover all costs related to the outreach week. This includes transportation, translators, Gospel tracts, Bible literature, evangelistic stickers, other vehicles, fuel, drivers, permissions, fees, flyers, follow up name cards, family festivals rentals, and much more.

For clarification, if your team is of 10 people, you will bring a total of \$3,000.00 to cover the cost of logistics for your team.

If you need a Contribution Record (Tax Deductible Contribution Statement) for this money, please just ask Pam Kern and it will be provided in printed and/or digital form.

Here is a good sample budget for your trip (\$1,530.00 is a good average cost):

Airfare (highly variable, \$500-\$1,000, a good average is \$750.00)

Hotel: \$260.00 per person (double occupancy)

Lunches and dinners, water bottles: \$175.00 (\$25.00 per day)

Logistical fee: \$300.00 per person One 5-pound bag of candy: \$10.00. One ball: \$10.00

Entry Visa: \$12.00

Optional costs: \$75.00: souvenirs, medical expenses if you were to get sick, an offering you might give at church on Sunday morning, phone calls, etc.

10. What else should you pack with you for your trip?

- A Bible or Bilingual New Testament (paperback)
- pens
- hand sanitizer and/or wipes
- a flash light
- a hat
- sun block
- insect repellent
- pain reliever
- anti-itch cream
- Imodium in case of diarrhea
- Light weight conservative cotton clothing (no shorts permitted for ministry activities; however, shorts may be worn during non-ministry down times)
- Comfortable closed shoes
- An intestinal infection antibiotic such as Cipro or Bactrim
- Anti-allergy medication
- A poncho and/or umbrella (during the rainy season: May through October trips).
- Personal medications
- Conservative swim and gym wear to use at the hotel pool or gym

An extra note regarding Dress Code:

Please bring comfortable clothes for hot and humid summer weather. The weather in San Miguel is hot and humid all year around. Men must wear pants; no suits, jackets or ties are necessary for the men at any time. Ladies may wear pants, to the knee capris, skirts, or dresses. **No shorts** are allowed for any ministry activity for men or women but may be used during any down time. Also, ladies must not wear spaghetti strap shirts or blouses that show their midsection. Also please no t-shirts that have offensive sayings or graphics.

11. Will there be an orientation meeting for the team once in country? YES!

This will either take place either Saturday or Sunday depending upon your arrival time. You will be advised as to the exact location and time once you arrive. Please bring your \$300 USD cash per person as well as the 5 LB bag of candy and ball (and anything else you might have brought with you for ministry use during the week) with you to this meeting, all will be collected by the person who leads the orientation meeting. The orientation meeting will be a great opportunity to learn more about your week in San Miguel as well as a good opportunity to ask any questions you might have.

12. Will there be a devotional time each morning during the week of the trip? YES!

This will occur every morning Monday to Friday about an hour before the scheduled departure time from the hotel. A Bible teaching will be shared with the team. The location and time will be provided during your orientation meeting.

13. What is the “key word” for the mission trip week? FLEXIBILITY

Please understand that flexibility will be very important for the week. Please be willing to “go with the flow”. Constant and unexpected change is a common part of Latin American culture, and without a doubt, you will experience it on your trip. Activities may change in both their times and places unexpectedly. And no worries, we are aware of this and always have a Plan b and a Plan c ready to go.

14. What does the Basic Schedule for the week look like?

Saturday: Arrivals, travel to San Miguel, hotel check in, possible orientation meeting.

Sunday: Church at Iglesia Bautista Buenas Nuevas San Miguel (Mother’s Day Celebration Emphasis); afternoon outreach

Monday-Friday morning: Devotional meeting, morning outreach

Monday -Friday afternoons: Afternoon-evening outreach

Saturday: Departure

You will be provided with a printed schedule of the week. Please be very prompt to all times listed on the schedule. Also, team leaders, when you board the bus or van for transportation to the ministry activities, please count your people. We will ask if all team members are present. It is very helpful if you can answer this question quickly.

15. What kind of ministry will we be doing while in San Miguel?

In general: Evangelism: The spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by public preaching or personal witness in a variety of settings including but not limited to parks, neighborhoods, marketplaces, schools, institutions and other places where people are gathered.

Specifically: Reach out in both High Schools and Universities in San Miguel by means of a value lesson on the topic of Bullying, the gospel will be shared with all the students and teachers verbally, visually, and using infographic brochures for each student. Additionally, the gospel will be preached through Family Festivals in neighborhoods which will be focused on the celebration of Mother’s Day (since the mission trip is in the month of May). The team will be prepared to give out about 50 gifts to the mothers who attend the festivals each night. The refreshments and games will also be focused on the mothers and their children. There will be an opportunity to share the gospel using a paint board and florescent paints and several interactive dynamics with the crowd. Most Family Festivals will take place in the city of San Miguel, however two nights the team will travel to towns outside of San Miguel. One Family Festival will take place in the town of San Francisco Gotera (about 25 miles away) and the other in the town of La Union (about 28 miles away). You will work with established sister churches in both those locations.

Big Question Tracts will be available for use in all outreaches. The church address will be printed on the back side of the tract. Iglesia Bautista Buenas Nuevas, *6ta calle poniente #505, Barrio San Felipe, (a la par de Servillaves) San Miguel, San Miguel. Facebook@ibbnsanmiguel.*

What are the instructions regarding currency exchange?

No currency exchange needed. El Salvador uses the US Dollar. Just a word of caution: no merchants accept denominations higher than a \$20 so please be sure you bring all small bills for your cash purchases and please be sure the bills are in good condition.

16. At the end of my trip, how will I get back to the airport?

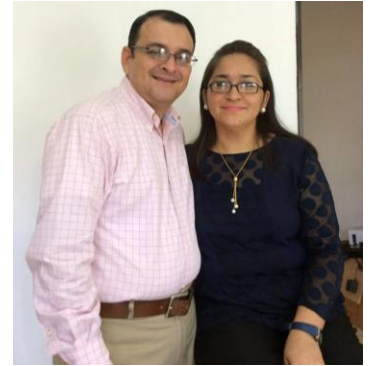
Just as you were picked up by leaders from the church, you will be transported back to the airport also by them. Feel free to ask during the week what time you will depart the hotel for your return trip to the airport, you always must plan on being at the airport at least 2 hours prior to your flight time.

17. Are there any aspects of the Salvadorian Culture that will naturally provide opportunities to build bridges for sharing the gospel? YES!

The people of ES love to talk and engage in conversation, in general, are very friendly to foreigners and tourists; they are generally receptive to the gospel and the Word of God in general. They hold God and Jesus in a high position even if they are not saved.

18. What is the Iglesia Bautista Buenas Nuevas Church information?

The Pastor is Ramiro Claros, his wife is Eugenia. They have 3 children, Ana Ester (2007), Esteban, (2009), and Pablo (2013). The church was started on Sunday August 5, 2018. The church is located on a major transportation artery in San Miguel. It is also a rented building that has been converted into a church space. They have two twin services weekly. Saturday evening at 6:45PM and Sunday at 9:30AM. The church currently (September 2022) numbers about 120 in total. Their average weekly attendance is between 80-90. About 40% of the congregation attends on Saturday and the remaining 60% on Sunday. The building has a capacity for about 150 people. Good News in Action has a 35+ years of relationship working with Buenas Nuevas, first started by Ramiro's father in San Francisco Gotera, and now many years working with his son, Ramiro.



<https://www.facebook.com/ibnnsanmiguel/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC08qqGMz8B5hBtvij2DxWfg>

[Iglesia Bautista Buenas Nuevas San Miguel - Google Maps](#)

A special Message from Pastor Ramiro to the teams who come to help him reach people for Christ in San Miguel:

We are all excited to see professions of faith during a week of evangelism in San Miguel and in that excitement, many times we like to see the numbers grow as the week progresses. However, the most important thing is not the numbers, but rather the real people we make a connection with who have a true desire to follow Christ with all their hearts.

Many times, the team members press for decisions, they want to get names on those yellow cards, other times, the people receiving the message pray and give their name just to get the person who is evangelizing them off their back. Either way, none of these are real decisions to follow Christ. When follow up time comes, none of these people are interested in connecting with God much less a local church.

I would like to personally ask any team that comes to please take the time to make a connection with the person, this is the most important element of the encounter, even if they do not make a profession of faith. After 44 years of experience participating in evangelistic outreaches of every type, and after spending weeks following up 400-600 professions of faith, what I have found works, really works, is when the team member took the time to make a meaningful connection with the person they were evangelizing. This connection serves many greater purposes, most importantly, an open door from the very beginning to develop a relationship with that person that may very well end in a decision for Christ.

Those who are just evangelized fast and hard and give their names have no interest in follow up because no connection was made with them, no relationship was initiated.

During the past 4 years, our church, Buenas Nuevas, has been built upon this principle. When we go out to evangelize, our goal is just one person, one family, or one couple that we make a true connection with, rather than any number of professions of faith. One might think that very little is being accomplished with these goals, but from week to week our church has grown because of the connection that was made. And those people are the ones who come back!

19. What is the contact information of the US Missionary we will be working with while in San Miguel:

Steve Kern's El Salvador home phone – 011-503-2246-4757

Steve's El Salvador Cell phone – 011-503-7605 4531, whatsapp for text messaging.

Steve Kern Home Broad Band Internet phone with USA area code –1-205-683-4033

Steve Kern e-mail addresses: goodnewsinactionelsalvador@gmail.com or steven_kern@hotmail.com

We are looking forward to seeing you on a future trip to San Miguel, El Salvador.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

May God Bless you!

Steve and Pam Kern

Website: www.goodnewsinaction.org

FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/GoodNewsInActionInc>