

Basic Information for Mission to Guatemala

What:

Mission to Guatemala is a short-term, cross-cultural missions experience for FSM senior high students. We look forward to taking 40 students led by 10 FSM staff and Cell Leaders.

When:

Friday, March 19 – Friday, March 26, 2010

Cost:

\$1,150.00

The fee includes transportation (by plane), most meals, lodging, construction materials for your project and supplemental health insurance. Don't be intimidated by the cost. You can raise support to cover all or a portion of your cost to experience Mission to Guatemala. **(SEND THOSE LETTERS!)**

Location:

San Bartolome Milpas Altas, Guatemala, Centro America (*see About Guatemala sheet*)

Projects:

The team will work on a wide variety of light construction projects involving improving the orphanage. We will also be: playing soccer, basketball, volleyball and other games with kids, helping with schoolwork, daily chores, assisting young orphans getting ready for the day, working in the kitchen, baby holding, playing with toddlers, Bible Study (VBS), and planning activities in the evening such as movie nights and basketball tournaments.

Accommodations:

We will stay in the orphanage Casa on the Rock, dormitory style rooms (boys and girls separated). Meals are eaten at the orphanage, prepared by our team.

Commitment:

We consider your application to Mission to Guatemala a serious commitment to go. We have reserved a space for you and will soon be preparing our team based on your commitment.

About Guatemala

Area: 108,889 sq km (42,042 sq miles)

Population: 12,639,939 (July 2000 est.)

Population Density: 100.4 per sq km (1996)

Capital: Guatemala City. Population: 1,167,495 (1995)

Time Zone: GMT - 6

Electricity: 110 volts AC, 60Hz. Some regional variations.

Geography

Guatemala is located in Central America and shares borders to the north and west with Mexico, to the southeast with El Salvador and Honduras, to the northeast with Belize and the Caribbean Sea and to the south with the Pacific ocean. The landscape is predominantly mountainous and heavily forested.

A string of volcanoes rises above the southern highlands along the Pacific, three of which are still active. Within this volcanic area are basins of varying sizes which hold the majority of the country's population. The region is drained by rivers flowing into both the Pacific and the Caribbean. One basin west of the capital has no river outlet and thus has formed Lake Atitlán, which is ringed by volcanoes.

To the northwest, bordering on Belize and Mexico, lies the low undulating tableland of El Petén, 36,300 sq km (14,000 sq miles) of almost inaccessible wilderness covered with dense hardwood forest. This area covers approximately one-third of the national territory, yet contains only 40,000 people.

Government

Guatemala is a Republic. Gained independence from Spain in 1821. Head of State and Government: President Alfonso Antonio Portillo Cabrera since 2000.

Constitution: 31 May 1985, effective 14 January 1986

note: suspended 25 May 1993 by former President SERRANO; reinstated 5 June 1993 following ouster of president; amended November 1993

Legal system: civil law system; judicial review of legislative acts; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

People

Population: 12,639,939 (July 2000 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.63% (2000 est.)

Birth rate: 35.05 births/1,000 population (2000 est.)

Death rate: 6.92 deaths/1,000 population (2000 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 47.03 deaths/1,000 live births (2000 est.)

Ethnic groups: Mestizo (mixed Amerindian-Spanish or assimilated Amerindian - in local Spanish called Ladino), approximately 56%, Amerindian or predominantly Amerindian, approximately 44%

Language

The official language is Spanish. English is widely spoken in tourist areas and major hotels and restaurants. Over 21 indigenous languages are also spoken.

Religion

The constitution guarantees freedom of worship, but Catholicism is the most widespread religion with a 20% Protestant minority. Some indigenous communities hold services combining Catholicism with pre-Columbian rites.

Communications

Telephone: IDD is available. Country code: 502. Outgoing international code: 00.

Mobile Telephone: Coverage is increasing in Guatemala; consult your network operator for details.

Fax: Most hotels have facilities.

Internet & E-mail: There are several cybercafés in Guatemala City and the main tourist areas. ISPs include GuateNet (website: www.guate.net).

Casa Para Niños Aleluya

Our Purpose

Casa Para Niños Aleluya was started in 1989 with the sole purpose of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to the suffering children of Guatemala. Through the housing, feeding, and education of the children, we are able to teach them about the unconditional love that many of them did not receive from their home.

It is our belief that these children will become the future leaders of Guatemala and will make significant improvements to the country by applying the Christian principles they are learning at our home.

Our Mission Statement

Casa Para Niños Aleluya is a Christ-centered ministry that includes both a physical home and spiritual covering for abandoned, orphaned, and abused children in Guatemala. The ministry involves care giving to children by providing food, clothing, shelter, education, and spiritual discipleship.

Our Vision Statement

The primary vision for Casa Aleluya is to impart Christ's perfect love to broken innocence and create an equipped follower of Jesus who is transformed into a powerful witness of God's grace and mercy to the world.

