

# Guatemala Mission Trip

## May 9 – 17, 2020



**Meridian Street United Methodist Church**  
**Guatemala Mission Work Trip**  
May 9 - 17, 2020

**Trip Information and Application**

**Destination:** Panajachel, Guatemala

Panajachel (often called "Pana") is a town of 15,000 inhabitants located in the southwestern Guatemalan highlands, on the northeast shore of Lake Atitlan, about a three hour drive from Guatemala City.

It sits at an elevation of 5240 ft.

Average May high temperature is 78.6F. Average low temperature is 57.7F

This will be the third Mission Work Team from MSUMC to visit Guatemala. Earlier visits were in 2016 and 2018

**Trip Sponsor:** Mission Guatemala

Mission Guatemala Inc. was founded in 2009 by Tom Heaton, a United Methodist pastor who has supported the needs of the poor of Guatemala since the year 2000. In the spring of 2010, Mission Guatemala located a mission site in the community of San Andrés Semetebaj and began the needed renovations to open a medical office, preschool/nutrition center and dental office. Though their services have expanded over the years, and staff has grown, their core mission has remained the same – partnering with local communities and schools to positively impact the areas of health, nutrition, and education in the communities of San Andrés Semetebaj and beyond.

**The Work:**

Light construction. Past groups have worked on construction of a school kitchen and a ramp/walk to an administration building.

Tasks have included painting, concrete mixing and pouring, block laying, wall demolition, brick cleaning, rebar forming, etc.

**Typical Day:**

Breakfast together. Travel to worksite. Lunch at worksite. Leave worksite 4-5pm.

Dinner together. Evening free for group activity or individual time.

Although construction activities are the tangible goals of the trip, the really crucial tasks are interacting with the local people, sharing our faith as well as our resources.

**Cost:**

- \$675 per person for in-country cost. This includes accommodations, meals, in-country transportation, interpreter.
- Airfare from Indianapolis - approximately \$600.
- Group Insurance - approximately \$50 per person.
- \$100 deposit required with application. Balance due April 1, 2020.

- All costs associated with Mission Guatemala work trips are tax deductible.
- Fundraising and anticipated assistance from the Missions Committee work trip fund will lower the cost.
- Special financial assistance may be available for students or others in need.

### **Accommodations and Meals:**

Work teams stay in Mission Guatemala's modern private lodge called "The River House". It is located on the outer edge of Panajachel and is a healthy walk or short "tuk tuk" ride from the center of town.

Bedrooms accommodate 2-3 people with bathrooms shared between 4-5 people.

Provided are mattress covers, blankets and pillows. To be brought are twin size sheets, pillow covers, and towels.

Wifi connection is available throughout most of the facility.

Breakfast and lunch is served in the dining room, prepared by The River House's skilled kitchen staff.

Fresh ingredients from local markets are featured. Lunch is typically eaten at the work site.

**Immunizations:** Recommended by the Center for Disease Control are:

- Routine Vaccines
- Hepatitis A
- Typhoid

*Note: Malaria is not a concern*

### **Documents:**

Passport required. Expiration date must be at later than August 17, 2020 (three months past scheduled departure from Guatemala).

### **Group and Age Restrictions:**

Group size limited to 12. Acceptance will be based on date of receipt of registration form with deposit. Adults and students in high school or above are welcome to participate.

### **Excursions/Sightseeing:**

- Arrival Sunday excursion/activity will be planned. In past - to colorful market city of Chichicastenango.
- Departure Saturday excursion/activity will be planned. In past - Lake Atitlan cruise to village of Santiago Atitlan.

### **Trip Preparation:**

Regular team meetings/communication will be held in the months leading up to the trip. Additional trip information will be shared then.

### **Trip Leader:**

David Gorden

Telephone: 926-0851

Email: [degorden@sbcglobal.net](mailto:degorden@sbcglobal.net)

**Meridian Street United Methodist Church  
Guatemala Mission Work Trip  
May 9 - 17, 2020**

**Application (one per person)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sex** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthdate** \_\_\_\_\_ **Passport #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Profession** \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any work skills (painting, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, etc.) ,medical specialty, and/or Spanish proficiency:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any previous Meridian Street or other work trip participation:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Special Dietary Needs/Restrictions:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Return to: David Gorden  
4404 N. Broadway St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205

degorden@sbcglobal.net