
Southgate Church - Mexico City 2024 Short-Term Mission Trip Info

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

- James 1:27

Description

In the summer of 2024, Southgate Church in Fort Collins, Colorado will partner with Restauracion Nueva Jerusalem (Nueva Jerusalem) Church in Mexico City in a renovation and ministry project at a girl's orphanage in Mexico City. This orphanage is run by Ministerios de Amor (Ministries of Love) and brings girls in who have lost their parents, been abandoned or would otherwise be forced to live in risky circumstances. ([Source 1](#)) There are approximately 50 girls who live at the compound.

Ministerios de Amor has worked tirelessly for many years to house as many girls as possible sometimes with very little outside support. Years of hard work, low budget and a full orphanage have left their building in a very poor state. Although Ministerios de Amor often only asks for people to come witness to the girls staying there and provide for their immediate needs (food and clothing which are also lacking), this team would be assembled to also provide some lasting improvements to their deteriorating building.

Southgate church will be sending a team on a one week trip to Mexico City to work with the orphanage and local church. The team will clean, repair, cook and minister at the orphanage. The team will also partner with Nueva Jerusalem church to help with their services, ministries and to minister spiritually to their congregation.

For those interested in the trip, this document will provide additional details.

Mission

- To serve the needs of Ministerios de Amor, a girl's orphanage in Mexico City, by:
 - Repairing their building which is extremely run-down from the many years
 - Encouraging and bringing joy to the orphans and staff through ministry time and personal connection
- To bless the Nueva Jerusalem church body, by:
 - Forming a relationship between our churches
 - Helping coordinate activities for their Sunday service and weekly activities
 - Leaving a financial gift (incorporated into the cost portion)
- To bless the members of the Southgate church body, by:

- Helping grow their heart of compassion and generosity by working with those in need in the orphanage
- Growing their faith during ministry time with the Nueva Jerusalen members

About Mexico City

Mexico City is the largest city in North America and the 5th largest city in the world (by the 2018 UN total metropolitan estimate) with over 21 Million people. Historically, Mexico has been predominantly Roman Catholic with over 98% reporting as Roman Catholic in the 1950s. Since that time, Biblical Christianity has slowly grown with the greatest boom being in the last 10 years where Biblical Christianity grew from 7.5 percent to 11.2 percent in 2021 ([Source 2](#)). This has been led by Pentecostal revivals, among which, you could probably count Nueva Jerusalen church.

In general Mexico City is safe for foreigners. However, it is not recommended to go out at night in certain areas. Common crimes in Mexico City are ATM robberies and other financial crimes. Carrying a small to medium amount of cash is safer than using card readers as there are scams operating as businesses throughout the city. Many places also do not accept card. You can convert money at the airport or use an authorized ATM upon arrival.

Although Mexican people are well known to all in the United States as well, there are some cultural differences which can be pronounced at times. The Mexican people are characteristically warm and inviting to the point that some American audiences could view their style of relationship as being intense.

Whether it is the women at the church pinching your babies cheeks and passing him/her around or insisting on gifting you with their time and things, it is important that these be taken in the heart that they are given, which is to show love and form a relationship with you. When offered, it is best to graciously accept, and yes, to act similarly toward them with your time, gifts and resources. It would be smart to think of a few small things to bring to the orphans and the church that show something about you, even if these are small things like a hand-written verse that God put on your heart or some type of candy that you love that they don't have in Mexico.

As with all warm cultures, especially when travelling, there can also be clashes when it comes to scheduling. If you are used to a strict regimen, it is best to let that go. Mexico City is constantly changing. It can be infuriating to plan a productive day only to get stuck in 2 hours of traffic and then find out that the place you were going was mislabeled on the map and then need to turn around. The travel mantra we use is "Sempre Gumbi" reminding us to always stay flexible.

About Restauracion Nueva Jerusalen

Nueva Jerusalen church started 8 years ago as Restauracion Nueva Jerusalen which translate as Restoration New Jerusalem. The church was birthed through the incredible testimony of the Garza family who, after having nearly abandoned the faith and living divided, came to know the Lord who healed and restored their family. Soon after, Gerardo Garza who was a successful businessman, felt God's calling to start a church late in his life to help restore other families and bring healing. Gerardo and Rebecca currently lead the church with their two sons, now with families of their own, serving in many capacities (their names are Ismael and Chantel and Israel and Valeria).

Many of those in the church have similar stories of God's supernatural healing, prophetic appointments and restored families which drew them out of their previous lives and into the church. Since Roman Catholicism dominates Mexico, almost all have personal and miraculous stories of how God brought them there. Similar moves of God are happening all across Mexico showing it to be fertile ground for revival and reminding us of what draws people into the church. Hearing those testimonies and praying with those at the church will undoubtedly change the lives of many from Southgate.

Service Plan

As stated before, the Southgate group will serve in both the orphanage and the church in Mexico City.

There are three main services which Southgate church will provide to the orphanage.

1. Meal preparation
2. Cleaning
3. Building Repairs

Depending on the size of the team, these three can be serviced by three different teams split by their capabilities. The meal preparation and cleaning will be done at the orphanage with the help of the girls staying there and Nueva Jerusalem church. These services will be done throughout the day while most of the girls are at school or working.

Since the repairs are too extensive to be managed in a single trip, it has been decided that the group should focus on a few, highly valuable but coordinated repairs. Ismael Garza visited and helped to catalogue the current issues at the orphanage which is attached to this description. Our suggestion was to focus on the bathrooms. If it seems that more can be accomplished, then more will be added.

Once the girls return each day, the three groups will come together and participate in an activity and ministry time with the girls in the evening. This will consist of sharing the meal and then creating fun activities with the group. These activities are flexible to the ideas of the Southgate group but some examples could be:

- Playing games with the kids in the back quad (a bit bigger than a basketball court). Maybe dodgeball, or capture the flag or soccer with the winning team getting a prize. Donate the balls to the orphanage.
- Movie night. Plan on a Christian movie and bring a projector. Bring popcorn and plan to talk and pray with girls after.
- Bring some books to read and then gift the kids with Bibles, journals and books.
- Share a testimony.

If you are joining, we look forward to what ideas the Southgate group could come up with for this time.

Throughout the week, some times are also planned for the group to serve at Nueva Jerusalem during their regular activities. This includes the Southgate group coordinating the following:

- A leadership meeting to hear from Pastor Gerardo and discuss his heart for missions and Mexico
- A worship night led by Southgate attendees
- A women's / men's night

- Helping with leading on the regular Nueva Jerusalem Sunday service as needed

The final day of the trip will include a fun day for the group to see CDMX and enjoy the beautiful and sprawling city.

Schedule

The following is the anticipated schedule for the trip:

Date		Activities
21-Jun-24	Friday	AM: Teams arrive at DEN. (Carpool from church if possible) PM: Team arrives in CDMX. Meet Pastor and family for dinner. Then check in to Hotel.
22-Jun-24	Saturday	AM: Team 1 goes to purchase supplies and formulate a plan for the work. Team 2 will be for leaders to connect and hear a message from Pastor Gerardo and Israel about his heart, testimony and needs in Mexico. PM: US team to lead a worship night.
23-Jun-24	Sunday	AM: Quiet times. Prayer Walk. Street ministry. Nueva Jerusalem help and set up. PM: Help and potentially preach at Nueva Jerusalem. Leads others in prayer and ministry with the people at service. Youth lesson. Kids lesson. Prayer and prophecy. Share a meal.
24-Jun-24	Monday	AM: Breakfast at hotel. Meet at church. Debrief and ministry time. Prep materials and supplies. Drive to orphanage and begin work. PM: Clean, renovate, and meet girls. Prepare a dinner. Ministry time
25-Jun-24	Tuesday	AM: Orphanage repairs and ministry time. All day PM: Continue cleaning, cooking and renovating. Ministry time
26-Jun-24	Wednesday	AM: Stay in CDMX for street ministry. PM: Nueva Jerusalem women's ministry, men out to other activity
27-Jun-24	Thursday	AM: Orphanage final day PM: Ministry time.
28-Jun-24	Friday	AM: Fun day (Desierto des los liones / zocalo / xochimilco) PM: Lead Nueva Jerusalem youth in an activity and ministry time
29-Jun-24	Saturday	AM: CDMX return flight PM: Arrive back in DEN
30-Jun-24	Sunday	AM: Debrief at SouthGate

The dates may adjust based on availability but Friday to a subsequent Saturday in the early summer is envisioned. This schedule is currently tentative.

Cost

The cost for the trip is **\$900** plus plane tickets. If tickets are purchased soon, the cost will be approximately **\$1,250** per person. The money will cover hotels, food, construction supplies and a gift for the church. If you are travelling as a family, and are intending to share a hotel room, the price will also decrease by up to **\$400** per person.

To get good plane ticket prices, it is recommended to move as quickly as possible.

Logistics

The team will either take Taxis or rent a van depending on the group size. The Rudy's and the Garza's will be responsible for coordinating the team while in Mexico City. It is highly recommended that all participants download WhatsApp onto their phones for use abroad. The team lead contacts are below:

Contacts Redacted for Privacy

The team leads will arrange transportation, lodging and translation for the group. There will be a WhatsApp group chat to make check ins. Depending on the group dynamic, more or less security will be taken.

Uber is readily available 24 hours a day in Mexico City and is very cheap and generally secure. Having it downloaded with a card connected ahead of time could get you out of a bind if you ever find yourself in one.

50 USD (about 1,000 Pesos) in cash will also get you food and a ride to anywhere in the city via Taxi. The team leads will control the money pot but some petty cash would be good to have on hand if you want/need it. The conversion rate is approximately 18 Pesos to 1 Dollar.

Team

All ages are welcome but space will be limited to about 15 people. Sign ups will go around the church in the coming months.

Attachment 1 – Orphanage Photos and Repairs Catalogue













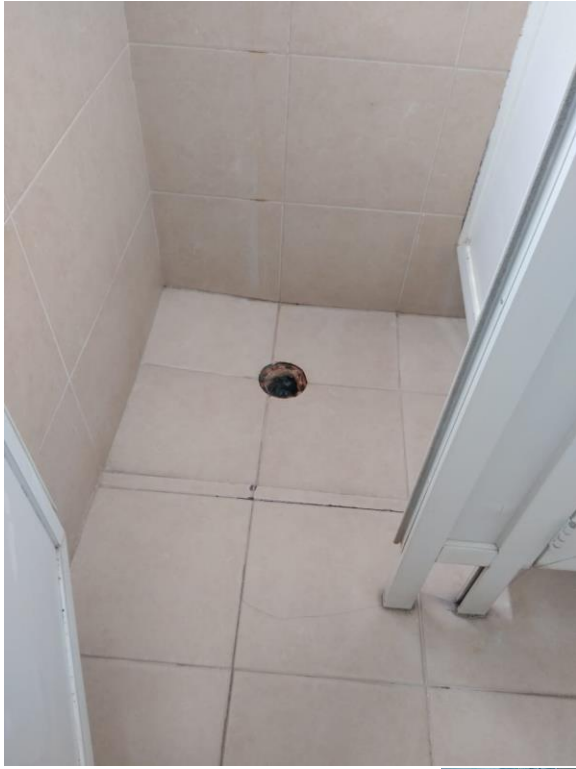












Attachment 2 – Bathroom Repair Project
