

GUATEMALA

The 410 Bridge

THE MISSION

We send teams to San Martín, Guatemala to connect with the churches and leaders in three rural communities we partner with—Chipila, Chiuleu, and San Jose. They are mainly agricultural communities, with coffee and other small yields of crops making up most of the local economy, and within each community, there are Leadership Councils that are responsible for initiating projects to mobilize the local churches and advance their communities in the fight against poverty.

These communities are consistently working towards “graduation”—the term used to describe when the communities have hit certain metrics that show they are no longer considered below the global poverty level. The Leadership Councils—made up of men and women of the local government, churches, schools, and more—invite us into their development journey. They define their goals, problems, and solutions, and community members participate in their development with their time, talents, and resources.

With The 410 Bridge, we stand in the gap of what they cannot do on their own. This participatory model of development ensures that the programs and projects are indigenously sustainable long after the community graduates. The leaders define their path, take ownership of the solutions, and are accountable for the outcomes.

So, what that means is that our trip and the work we do with them is ultimately in their hands for the 7-10 days we’re on the ground. We are there to support their work, and that may mean we’re helping on a construction project, training them on a skill or trade, or simply meeting with families and church members to encourage them. Each trip will look different, and the teams we build be specialized to serve these needs well.

WHO IS THE 410 BRIDGE?

The 410 Bridge is an organization that seeks to redefine the war on poverty by shifting the worldview around it—seeing the poor as not a problem to be solved but as their own solution. The 410 Bridge focuses on development in five areas: spiritual development, clean water, health, economic development, and education. Their method is sustainable and views the communities as the leaders in their own success, with the Western church as an ally. We work *with* them on the war against poverty, not *for* them.

WHY GO ON MISSION?

Global mission trips open our eyes to the way God is at work in the global church, give us a new perspective on the diversity of cultures and ways of life around the world, and further train us to be evangelists of the gospel of Jesus. So often, we can go on trips

seeking to be an agent of change, but we return home having been changed even more. We see the world and its challenges through a new lens, evaluate our own lives and faith with new perspective, and discover more about who God made us each to be as participants in His kingdom work.

COST & PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Approximately \$2500 / per person

**Final costs determined by team size and varying flight costs.*

Approximately 3 months from departure - Commitment & \$250/per person deposit due
At departure - Final payments due

The cost of the trip covers airfare, lodging, and ground costs (food, transportation, etc.).

Fundraising is encouraged as individuals, and there may be opportunities to fundraise as a team. We never want finances to be the reason someone does not participate in international mission trips, so please talk with the Bridge Missions team if you need help fundraising or need flexibility in payment schedule!

LODGING & ARRANGEMENTS

During the mission trip, we stay at a place called Green Resort, a facility owned by The 410 Bridge. All members will stay in the same building with neighboring rooms that are secured, and each room will have a key for the safekeeping of your individual belongings.

We will eat three times daily together—breakfast at the Green Resort (prepared by staff), boxed lunches, and dinner at a local restaurant. Food arrangements will be made the 410 Bridge staff on the ground in Guatemala.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

There are currently no vaccination requirements to travel to Guatemala. For health recommendations, you can visit the CDC website for the most up-to-date information.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What do I pack?

A packing list will be provided in the weeks prior to the trip, and it will have special recommendations based on the season of travel. Guatemala has rainy season from May to October, and the remainder of the year is relatively dry and warm, so your packing list will adjust accordingly.

2. How do I pay for the trip?

Each team member has the opportunity to raise his or her own financial support to experience a mission trip. While this task may seem daunting, it is a unique opportunity to see God provide in ways that will strengthen your faith. We say that the preparation of a trip is just as important as your time on the ground in the total experience of a mission trip, and fundraising is a key part! You will be supported the entirety of the way, and we'll never let finances be what stands in the way, so if you need any support in raising money or flexibility of deadlines, speak with the Bridge Missions team to find a solution.

3. Are trips safe?

The safety of your group is top priority for our partners, as we're sure it is for you. In all the areas you will serve, extra precautions are taken to make sure you or your group is as safe as possible. Guided by our local, experienced ministry staff partners, our partners avoid situations that are inherently dangerous.

We also recommend enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), which is a free service that allows U.S. citizens traveling or living abroad to receive the latest security updates from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. Enrolling in [STEP](#) will help the U.S. embassy contact you and provide assistance during an emergency overseas. And, if your family or friends in the U.S. are having difficulty contacting you with urgent news while you're traveling, the embassy can use the information in STEP to try and reach you.

4. Is trip insurance included in the cost of my trip?

Trip insurance is included in your trip costs and ensures that any emergencies, including medical, that take place on the ground will not come at an unexpected expense to you.

5. Will I be able to communicate with my family and friends when I go?

There are several options for you to receive calls and text messages while traveling abroad, and you can check with your phone provider for options to do so, usually at a low cost. You can also encourage your family to use WhatsApp, a common communication tool that's available anytime you're connected to cellular service or WiFi.

6. Will we get to see other parts of the country when we go?

Yes! Our mission trips to Guatemala include what we call an "excursion day" to Antigua, where you'll be able to experience the country from a new angle, try new foods, buy souvenirs... all that fun stuff.

7. What about passports and customs?

You do need a valid passport to travel globally, and to enter Guatemala, you need a U.S. passport that is valid at the time of entry. A customs form is required upon entrance and exit of Guatemala, and your team leader can assist you in how to fill out the forms.