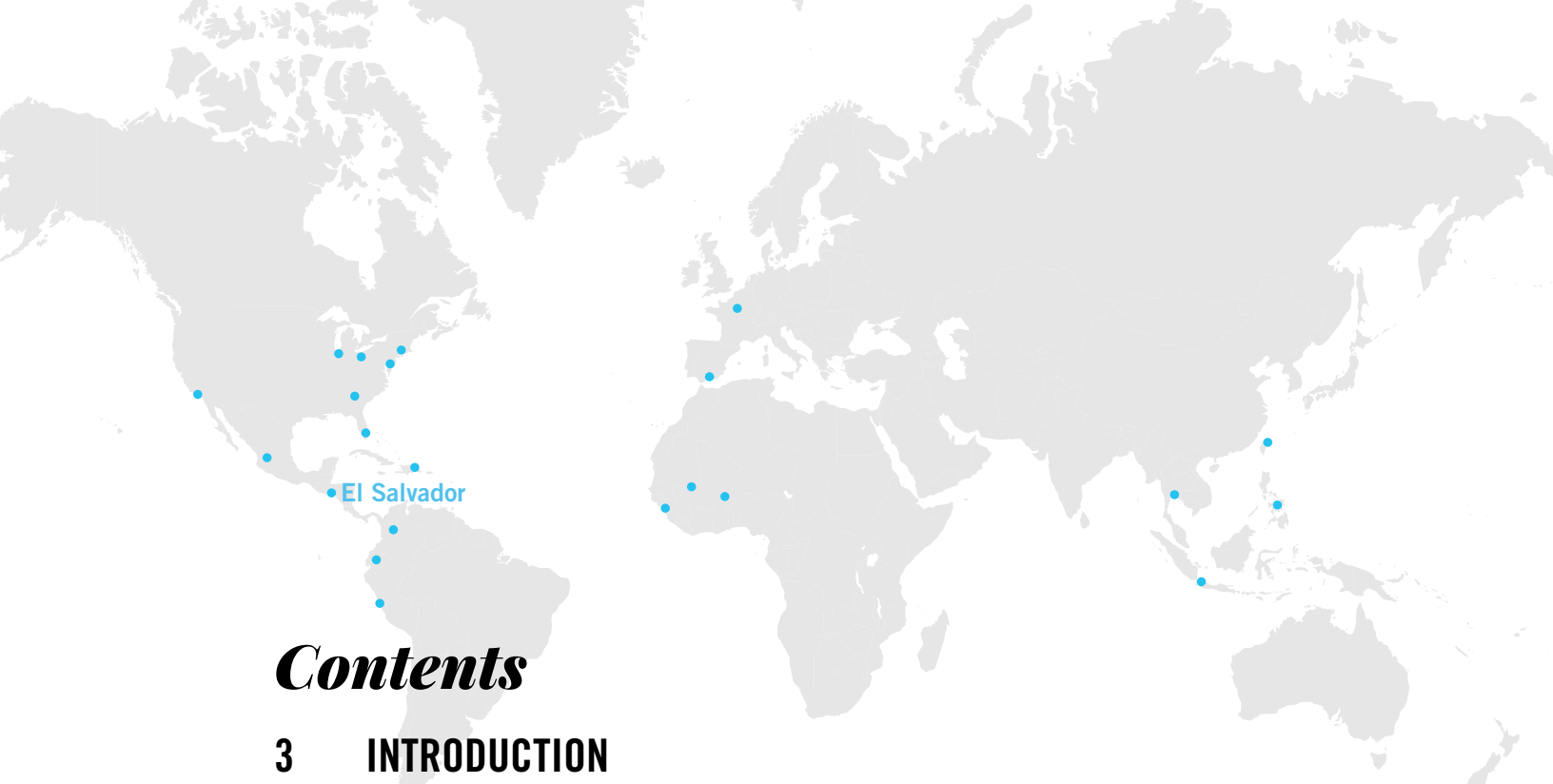




El Salvador

ENVISION HANDBOOK





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Introduction

ABOUT THE SITE

Push back the darkness in a country with many deep problems, including gangs, prostitution, and the disintegration of the family. We try to turn short-term missions upside down by starting with the local pastors and organizations. We do many projects such as: youth outreach at schools, church partnership evangelism, vocational training, sharing the gospel with orphans, and restoring families.

We cannot wait for you to join us and participate with God in His work and change the lives of broken people. Here at Envision El Salvador, we embrace you with open arms. We are excited to have you on board.

We are looking forward to working with you side-by-side, bringing people into the Kingdom through the local church. Our hope is that you will share in a life-changing experience with us. Please include us in your daily prayer, asking the Lord to watch over everything we do.



MEET THE TEAM

Tony and Claudia Escalante serve with Envision El Salvador as site coordinators. They are the only site outside the U.S. with a national leader! Tony has been working with Envision El Salvador for several years. He started as a volunteer translator in 2011, then became a staff member (coordinating transportation), then was a co-leader, and now is a site leader. He married his beautiful wife, Claudia, in 2013 and loves worshiping God through music. Tony is funny, wise, and passionate about serving God. Tony is also developing his skills as a coffee-lover because of our amazing Envision Coffee.



Laura Rodriguez initially came to Envision El Salvador on a short-term missions trip. She served as an intern in 2015, then as a resident, and is now the site associate, teams coordinator, and intern/resident coordinator.



Joaquin Guevara has been working at Envision El Salvador for seven years in the IT department and as support in other areas. Since January 2020, he has transitioned to be the national director for programs. Joaquin is passionate about his family and music. He has been married to his wife for six years, and they have two daughters. He also serves as the worship leader of his church alongside his wife. What he enjoys most about working with the La Fuente kids is getting to see the transformation of God in their lives.



Hamilton Martinez has served at Envision El Salvador for seven years. He is the site lawyer, site treasurer, and human resource director. He and his wife have two daughters, Jazmin and Noemi. His oldest daughter, Jazmin, chose to be a part of the program as well after seeing the impact that it had on the other youth. As a family, they enjoy the simple but meaningful things in life.



Saul Mejia has been the director of the San Salvador La Fuente program since February 2020. He also has been the pastor of Iglesia Casa de Oración for five years. Saul enjoys playing basketball and spending time with his wife and 11-year-old son, Mateo.



Gloria Sanchez has served at Envision El Salvador for ten years as the secretary and cook for the site. She loves serving and counseling the kids of La Fuente. She is also currently studying psychology at a university.



Milton Ortiz started as a volunteer translator for Envision El Salvador, then he transitioned into a part-time role as one of our tutors at our La Fuente Apopa Project. He is currently in charge of our communications department and helps as the assistant soccer coach for our La Fuente FC project. He is passionate about Jesus, enjoys going to the mountains, and loves soccer.



General Information

TEAM COSTS

The general cost is \$750 per individual on the ground in the country for seven nights and eight days. It will cost an additional \$100 a day for anyone wanting to stay longer than eight days. The in-country expenses cover meals, lodging, in-city transportation, cultural connection day, and travel insurance. Airfare is not included.

INTERN COSTS

The general cost is \$1,350 a month per intern on the ground in the country. The in-country expenses cover meals, lodging, laundry products, in-city transportation, communications, and Spanish tutoring. Airfare is not included. In addition to the monthly cost, there will be a one-time fee of \$455 for international travel insurance if your internship is over 180 days. For internships under 180 days, the international travel insurance would be a one-time fee of \$53.

HOUSING & FOOD

Teams will be staying in a dorm setting and will be provided with bedding and pillows. If you wish to bring your own, that's fine too (if you wish to donate them, they would be put to good use). Please bring enough clothes for your entire trip. Meals will either be cooked at the Envision ministry center or will be eaten at a local restaurant. Please be sure to inform the Envision team of any food allergies in your group before you come. Please be aware that it is difficult to accommodate a gluten-free diet. Trip participants with gluten allergies should be prepared to bring their own snacks.

Interns will be staying in a furnished house, and a washing machine is provided. Bedding,



pillows, and a bath towel are also available. Interns will eat meals with teams when they are here. When there are no teams, you will be going to the grocery store and cooking for yourselves or eating at a local restaurant.

AIRPORT & ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Make your flight arrangements to fly into the Comalapa International Airport (SAL) in San Salvador. You will need to pay a \$12 tourist entry fee when you land at the airport, so be sure to bring \$12 in cash per person with you. The Envision team will pick you up at the airport and take care of all other travel arrangements for you during your visit with us. All necessary COVID documents are required before departure from U.S. as well as on arrival. A completed vaccine card or a negative RT-PCR test received within 72 hours of arrival to El Salvador is needed.

VISAS

Groups: You will be required to pay, in cash, \$12 for a tourist visa (per person) when you arrive.

Interns: You are also required to pay, in cash, \$12 for a tourist visa that will give you a visa for 90 days. If you are staying more than 90 days, our lawyer will be completing all the paperwork needed for you to obtain your visa extension or resident card (depending on the length of your internship).

COMMUNICATIONS

Since groups are usually in El Salvador for only seven nights, we really encourage group members to connect with God by having their eyes and ears wide open to experience God working in their lives and resting a few days from social media. Wifi is available; however, we encourage teams not to use it until evenings when the ministry day is over. We also

encourage team leaders to arrive with a temporary international plan to update people back in the United States that are praying for the group. Internet is provided for interns to keep their supporters updated. If possible, please bring an unlocked cell phone—we can add them to a local plan.

HEALTH & VACCINATIONS

There are currently no COVID-19 vaccination or testing requirements for entry into El Salvador. However, the U.S. is requiring a negative COVID-19 test for re-entry for all U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents (LPR), and for fully vaccinated foreign travelers. COVID-19 testing for re-entry to the U.S. depends on vaccination status. Those who are fully vaccinated need a negative test result within 72 hours of departure, and those who are not fully vaccinated need a negative test result within 24 hours of departure (unless they are not fully vaccinated foreign travelers, in which case they are unable to enter the U.S.). We will make the arrangements necessary for testing before departure, but each team and intern are financially responsible for all COVID-19 tests needed. We will continue to monitor travel and entry requirements to El Salvador and to the U.S. and will adjust our policies in accordance with the latest COVID-19 regulations in place.

Check these links for up-to-date info:

sv.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/

All other vaccine info is here:

wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/el-salvador



Packing List

- Clothes (including work clothes)
- Tennis shoes
- Flip flops (shower shoes)
- Modest swim suit (ladies, with shorts)
- Beach towel
- Toiletries
- Sunscreen
- Bugspray
- Hand sanitizer and/or baby wipes
- Toilet paper
- Lotion
- Chapstick
- Personal fan (for sleeping)
- Sunglasses
- Rain jacket
- Prescription meds
- Preferred meds for pain, allergy, digestion, nausea
- Work gloves and shoes
- Hat
- Flashlight, extra batteries
- Snacks
- Alarm clock
- Camera
- Water bottle
- Bible, journal, pen
- Spending money in USD
- Spanish-to-English dictionary
- First aid kit
- Shower towel and shampoo/conditioner
- Small backpack

SUGGESTED DRESS CODE

Pay attention to your appearance. Salvadorans are very conscious of appearance, grooming, and dress. Looking scruffy and unwashed is considered an affront.

Please steer toward conservative attire—especially when visiting churches. You should avoid wearing tank tops and short shorts. Very few Salvadorans wear shorts outside of the beach and coastal towns. We always go with the “neck to knees plus sleeves” guideline.





Ministry

La Fuente

La Fuente is our Youth Development Center program. These projects are located in neighborhoods with a major gang presence. We work with kids in grades 6-12. Our goal in working with these at-risk youth is to provide a safe place for them to spend their time, a place where they feel invested in and loved, where they will hear the truth of who Christ is, and turn their lives over to Him. At La Fuente, we feed the kids lunch, hang out with them, share the gospel, have devotions with them, and teach classes that will provide them with skills they can use further on in life. These include classes such as English, cooking, computer, wood working, and math. The kids earn “money” based on participation, behavior, and attendance. We have “store day” one day a month (when finances allow) where they can purchase anything from school supplies and coloring books to socks and deodorant or dry goods like rice, beans, sugar, and flour. The kids almost always buy food for their families before anything else. You could sponsor a La Fuente student for \$60 a month.

Scholarship Program

When our La Fuente kids finish 9th grade, they are ready to go to high school, and most of them (if not all) will have to attend public high school. Public high school is a big recruiting instrument for gangs, and kids’ lives are at risk when they attend a public high school located in a different gang territory. The scholarship program provides scholarships for as many kids as possible so they are able to attend to a Christian private school we partner with and finish their high school program there. The cost per student is \$3,000 for a two-year high school program.

Online High School

There are some kids that by the time they finish 9th grade, they turn 18 years old. We offer them an option of studying high school online if they have to work or prefer to not to attend public high school for security reasons. There are tutors that help them succeed as they complete their online program.

La Fuente FC

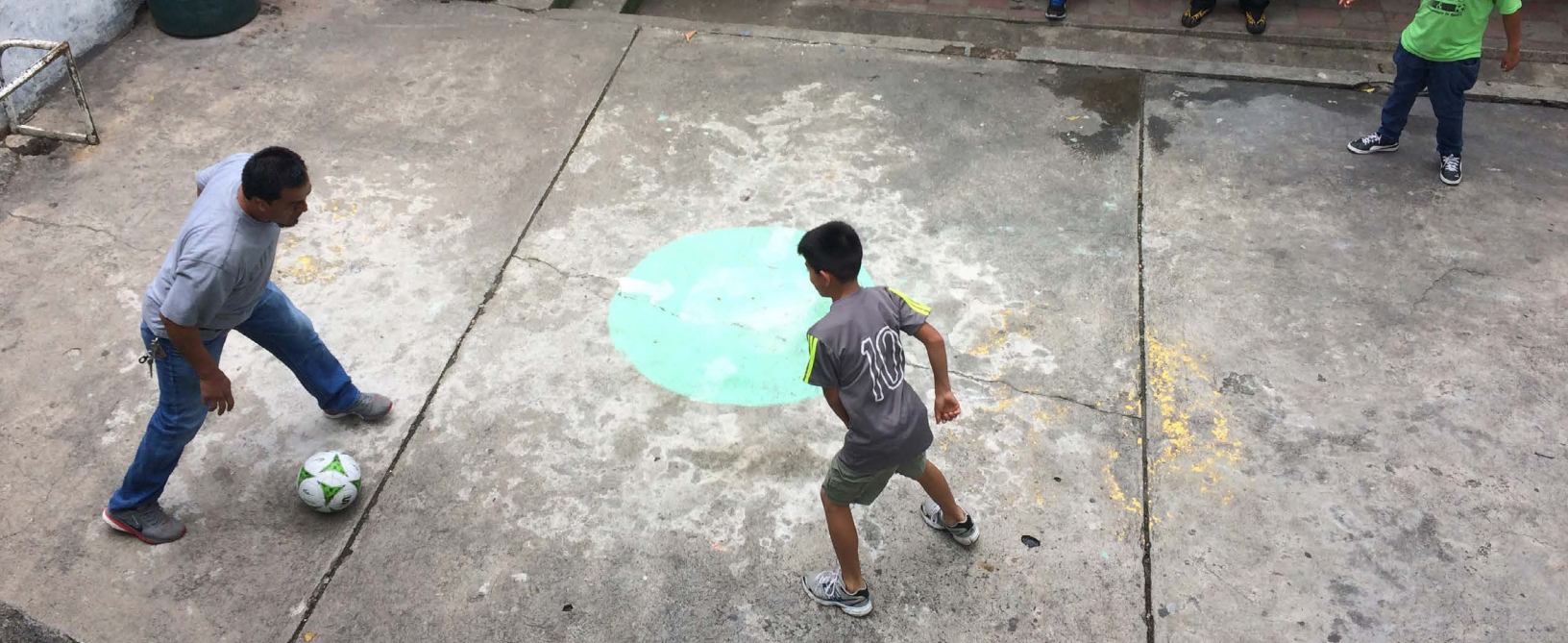
La Fuente Fútbol Club is a soccer team program. The kids practice once a week and get enrolled in tournaments when available. They also have team devotions before or after each practice. The goal of La Fuente FC is to train them in disciplines by teaching respect, perseverance, and teamwork. Many of the kids are talented athletes, and one of their goals is to work towards getting athletic scholarships at local or international universities.

Mavericks Flag Football

Mavericks Flag Football is a team of girls that forms part of the Women's Flag Football League of El Salvador. This program is currently in pause due to the lack of a coach for the team.

Envision Coffee

You can also help support us by buying/selling coffee in the States through our website (www.envisionelsalvador.com) or placing your order through envisioncoffee@gmail.com. This helps us raise funds for the ministry on-site. This is high-quality coffee that we can ship directly to you in the States. Envision Coffee is currently on hold right now, but we are working on reinstating it



Cultural Sensitivity

- Do shake hands and say “mucho gusto” (nice to meet you) the first time you meet someone.
 - Do preface your conversation, and even simple requests, with “buenos días” (good morning) or “buenas tardes” (good afternoon/evening). It’s also courteous to say “hello” to the person sitting next to you on the bus or give a general greeting when entering a public place like a restaurant.
 - Do bring mementos and souvenirs from home to give as gifts to special folks who have helped you or invited you to their home.
 - Don’t refer to indigenous people as “indios,” which is considered an offensive term. The word “indígena” for indigenous men and women is widely used.
 - Don’t expect everything to rush at a New York City pace.
 - Don’t take photographs of religious ceremonies or people without asking.
 - Don’t be insulted if people comment frankly on your physical appearance or give you a related nickname (i.e. el gordito/fatty). It’s done affectionately and isn’t meant to be hurtful.
- Common Terms
 - **Que ondas**—What’s up
 - **Chele**—White people
 - **Bicho, Bicha**—Boy, Girl
 - **Vos**—You
 - **Bolado**—Thing (or anything you don’t remember the name of)
 - **Chivo**—Cool
 - **Pisto**—Money
 - **Pupusas**—Delicious food that you need to try!



Contact Info



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