



EL SALVADOR SECURITY STATEMENT

NOVEMBER 2017

Hello El Salvador Trip Participants,

As you prepare for your upcoming trip to El Salvador, we would like to address the safety and security risks specifically present in El Salvador.

Unfortunately, gang activity is a major concern in El Salvador. In June of 2014, the government-supported truce between the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) and Barrio 18 dissolved, and since then violent crimes have increased significantly. We want you to be aware that we are watching this situation very closely.

We know that these violent crimes are targeted at gang members, not foreigners. Our field staff is confident that the gang members view us as a help and not a threat, as they know we are helping the communities where their families live.

As mentioned in our Security Statement, we acknowledge that there are inherent risks associated with travel outside the US. Our excellent record is evidence of how seriously we take safety and security. Although it is impossible to guarantee anyone's safety, we do all that we can to mitigate risks, and expect you to help us in abiding by our Behavior Protocol. The following rules are of utmost importance for trip participants traveling to El Salvador in particular:

- » trip participants **MUST** completely cover all tattoos with clothing (not bandanas)
- » trip participants **MUST** remove all facial piercings and other jewelry and leave them at the team house or hotel
- » trip participants are **NOT** permitted to wear Nike Cortez shoes

Along with the rules stated above, the Living Water Trips Director, Carlos Molina, and his staff have instituted additional procedures that will further facilitate a safe environment while working in the communities of El Salvador.

- » Because we know that we are working in communities that are often under the protection of gang members, Carlos and his team directly communicate with the gang leaders regarding our Christian mission and activities while we are visiting their community. The gang leaders typically keep an eye on everyone entering the community and often secure our drilling equipment. Sometimes they even contribute manual labor as the teams work to benefit their families.
- » Our team leaders and trip participants will evacuate the community if a potential safety threat is perceived.
- » The team will only travel after dawn and will head back to the hotel before dark.

- » Carlos and his staff will work with the leaders of the community to continuously communicate who we are and the activities that will occur during the week.
- » Carlos and his staff will travel in a convoy with large Living Water International signs on the vehicles to notify others within the community of who we are as they enter a community.
- » Community members will gather to greet the team at the beginning of the visit.

Thank you very much, and please feel free to call your Living Water Trips Coordinator if you have any questions.

Blessings,

Lew Hough, Vice President-Living Water Trips

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