

Spain Mission Trip F.A.Q.

What will we do for fundraisers?

Our goal is for you to pay very little out of your own pocket. In order for you to have a real mission trip experience, we will be guiding you in "raising" your own support, just like most missionaries do. It is a part of the process and learning how to trust God for His provision. If you believe He's leading you to go, He's already provided the funds...it's our part to take action, work odd jobs, ask for support...and other creative ways we know you'll think of! We will be giving you a sample support letter that you can personalize and then send out to raise support for what God wants to do in La Coruña.

What is the weather like in La Coruña?

Looking at weather in July 2009, the temperature was in the low 70's.

Where will we sleep and eat?

These details are still being worked out. We have the option to stay at the church but there are no shower. Since we'll be working with people, we're not sure we'd be able to share Jesus' love very effectively :) Possibilities include a local hotel or staying in homes. These are details that we need to talk with Rob and Nancy Reed and Dale Lusk about. MERGE, along with some of the church attenders, typically prepare our daily meals.

Why would I want to go?

This will be a life-changing experience. The opportunity to partner with God cross-culturally will never leave you the same. As you take steps of faith and steps outside your comfort zone, you will experience God in new ways and see and experience a whole new dimension and way of doing life. God will teach you lessons that you will look back on for the rest of your life and continue to learn from and be encouraged by them. Partnering with God in life is unbelievable. In Acts 1:7-9, Luke reminds us about Jesus' words to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Or, in student terms....to be witnesses in our school, neighborhood, family, etc (Jerusalem), in our city (Judea) and everywhere else (yup, you guessed it - the world or as Luke said, to the ends of the earth!). We are providing an opportunity to be a witness to that "everywhere else."

How will I know what to do?

Check the interest sheet for the "what to do next."

Is this all I need to know?

Nope! As we learn of the interest and approve applications, we will notify you (also, under the "what's next" section on the interest sheet) by October 29. From there, we will give you resources, conduct trainings, etc.

More Questions?! Contact Dan or Kristy
danf@redwoodcovenant.org or 528-8463 x244
kristy@redwoodcovenant.org or 528-8463 x233

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Who is taking us?

We will be guided and "hosted" by an organization that is part of the covenant Church called MERGE Ministries. MERGE was started by Dale Lusk (a friend of Dan and Scott P.). Dale attended North Pak Theological Seminary, in Chicago, and earned a Master of Divinity degree. While in seminary Dale asked God for wisdom, and direction about where God wanted him to serve. In 1991, Dale was sent by the Covenant denomination to visit the Covenant churches in Northern Mexico. After only two days, it became clear to Dale that this was the place God had called him to. With the blessing of the Evangelical Covenant Church leaders, Dale started Covenant MERGE Ministries in 1993. In the past sixteen years, over 10,000 people have served Christ in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe, through Covenant MERGE Ministries, and have touched the lives of over 35,000 people. The 50-60 teams, who serve through Covenant MERGE Ministries annually, have served churches, camps, Christian schools, children's homes and community outreach ministries.

Dan has been on several trips with MERGE and each time they have done an absolutely incredible job of hosting and helping students as they serve. We are excited to be partnering with MERGE on this trip. If you would like more information about what MERGE does, check out their website: <http://www.covmerge.org/>.

What will we do?

As we have talked with Dale, we most likely would be partnering with the students of the church in La Coruña by building relationships and sharing God's love with local peers in the community. There are a number of possibilities of what that might look like. Dale has mentioned building relationships during the week and then doing a one night retreat. As we are currently in the exploratory phase, thoughts and ideas of how to come alongside Rob and Nancy Reed and their ministry will unfold as we go!

Is it safe?

Obviously, we cannot guarantee that everything will be 100% safe. Anytime you go on a mission trip (or any trip) there are always things that could go wrong. However, we will do absolutely everything to make sure our students stay safe while they are serving on the trip. Also, MERGE Ministries has tons of experience when it comes to doing mission trips and they do a great job keeping everyone safe so they can serve and minister on the trip.

Who can go?

Anyone who will be a sophomore, junior, or senior in the fall of 2010 or a recent 2010 graduate.

When are we going?

Tentatively, July 24-August 2, 2010. We would fly out of Chicago after doing ministry with Center for Student Missions in Chicago.

Where are we going?

La Coruña, Spain is the second largest city in Galicia in northwestern Spain, second only in size to the port of Vigo in the Pontevedra Province. La Coruña is a busy port located on a promontory in the entrance of an estuary in a large gulf (the Portus Magnus Artabrorum of the classical geographers) on the Atlantic Ocean. It provides a distribution point for agricultural goods from the region. Although much of the heavy industry is based on the shipyards and metalworks of the neighbouring city of Ferrol, there is an oil refinery in La Coruña itself. La Coruña has 245,164 inhabitants, and has one of the biggest population densities of Spain and Europe, with around 6700 inhabitants per square kilometer.

Spain Mission Trip Interest Sheet

Tentative: Summer 2010 - La Coruña, Spain

Objective:

The objective of doing a level two mission trip for students:

More Immersive (i.e. more exposure and interaction with the people and culture)

Different feel and flavor than the first level experience (such as that of Culiacan, Mexico or urban Chicago)

Purpose:

The purpose behind a level two student mission trip is fivefold:

- 1) Expose students to what God is doing worldwide (i.e. overseas),
- 2) Provide an opportunity for God to continue to conform, shape, and mold students into the image of Jesus as they step outside their comfort zone and depend on God to work in and through them (Romans 8:28-29),
- 3) Provide an opportunity and experience that may continue to bring out those things that God has prepared in advance for each believer to do (Ephesians 2:10),
- 4) To encourage, build-up, strengthen and serve brothers and sisters of a different culture in their walk with God and their ministry to the community around them through various means (i.e. construction projects, children or student ministries, community development, education, and so forth...whatever is needed), and
- 5) An opportunity for students that may be feeling led to explore a call in missions.

Why La Coruña, Spain?!

As Dan and I talked with Dale Lusk, Executive Director of Merge Ministries (the same ministry we work with when we go to Culiacan, Mexico), he began to share with us a number of possible locations according to the purposes of the trip. La Coruña, Spain stands out to us for a couple reasons:

It is an area of great need!

Unfortunately, though, not many groups go to this site. Primarily because of the expense and some to do with the travel time, even though there is great opportunity to partner with Rob and Nancy Reed, Covenant missionaries and church planters in La Coruña.

Student to Student Ministry

The ministry students would be involved with would be with the local students of the church. We think this would be an amazing opportunity for students to build relationships with their peers of a different culture and minister to the students of the community alongside the students of the church. It is a very unique ministry opportunity and fits with objective number two in providing the different feel than that of the first experience.

Requirements: Application for consideration

Because this is a new dimension of Emmaus, we are going to open the level two experience to all students. (In the future, we may put a requirement of having been on a level one trip.) Based on the application and our knowledge of the student, a decision will be made on his/her acceptance as part of the team that goes. If no other mission experience has been participated in by the student, there will be a requirement to be a part of the Chicago trip as well. Our recommendation is that a student participates in both experiences back to back (level one: Chicago; level two: La Coruña) so as to understand and experience the different settings and opportunities.

Spain Mission Trip Interest Sheet

Tentative: Summer 2010 - La Coruña, Spain

What to do Next?!

Pray

Talk with God individually (student and parent/s) about what His will is for this trip - would He have you (or your student) join the team...or maybe it's a step of obedience of just filling out the application as a way to show you trust Him...He might lead us to have the student wait a year...it's all about obeying the first step He shows us.

Application & \$50 Deposit - Due: Sunday, October 11

(if applying to Chicago too, it would be \$100 total deposit)

Pick up an application, fill it out and turn it in by Sunday, October 11.

We will review all applications, have conversations if needed with applicant & parent/s, and let each applicant know the results by October 29.

Rough Estimates of Information

Travel Dates

These are very rough estimates!

Saturday, July 24

Depart Chicago (Level One group will be flying back to SR)

Arrive in Madrid, Spain and travel by plane, bus or train and arrive in La Coruña July 25

Week of July 25 - August 1: Ministry with La Coruña students and Jerry & Nancy Reed

Sunday, August 1 (after attending a church service) or Monday, August 2

Depart La Coruña (depends of departure times of plane, bus, or train)

Arrive in Madrid

Monday, August 2

Take part in some cultural experience while in Madrid

Tuesday, August 3

Depart Madrid & Arrive in SR

Cost

Looking at the various things needed - flights, ground transportation, organization fees for Center for Student Ministries (Chicago) and Merge (La Coruña), housing, food, and a culture experience in Madrid - the very, very rough estimate is \$2500-3000 (for both Chicago & La Coruña. We tried to estimate on the high end...hopefully :). Don't let this freak you out or let it be a barrier!

Ask God what His will is for this trip....He'll provide if He guides you/your student to go.

If you have any questions, please let us know.
kristy@redwoodcovenant.org or 528-8463 x233
danf@redwoodcovenant.org or 528-8463 x244