

YOUTH COLOMBIA MISSION TRIP - JUNE 22-30, 2017

ITINERARY

Thursday, June 22: Meet at Intercontinental Airport (IAH) at 9:30 a.m. Flight on AeroMexico through Mexico City. Arrive in Bogota at 10:42 p.m. Spend the night at mission guest house.

Friday, June 23: Orientation & tourist day- Ministry orientation and sightseeing in Bogota (walking tour, Gold Museum, lunch and souvenir shopping), dinner, worship and bed.

Saturday, June 24-Sunday, June 25: Breakfast, devotional, community & medical outreach. Activities: children's program, Sports Camp, finger nail and face painting, etc., dinner, worship, and bed.

Monday, June 26: Villeta, Colombia – Travel to Villeta. Work day at retreat center, dinner, worship and bed.

Tuesday/Wednesday, June 27 & June 28: Community activities with "His House Church" in Villeta. Leading VBS style activities like used in the Community outreach above.

Thursday, June 29: Pool party at the retreat center with kids from refuge community and area farms. Bible lessons in the morning, activities, pool and hot dog lunch. Return to Bogota in the afternoon. Dinner and depart for airport.

Friday, June 30: Leave Bogota at 12:12 a.m. Arrive Houston (IAH) at 11:28 a.m.

HOUSING AND MEALS

We will be staying at The Youth with a Mission guest house in Bogota and the Villeta Retreat Center in Villeta and will take our meals there, unless otherwise listed.

COST

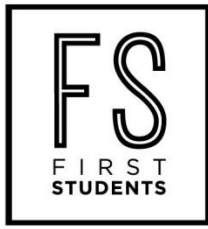
The \$1,600 includes transportation, lodging, most meals, emergency insurance and ministry supplies.

Payment Schedule:

\$200	Non-Refundable Deposit/Paperwork due upon registration
\$700	March 25 th
\$700	May 1, 2017 Final balance

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Jun 22	Houston (IAH) - Mexico City (MEX)	12:43pm	3:10pm	AeroMexico 419
Jun 22	Mexico City (MEX) - Bogota (BOG)	6:00pm	10:42pm	AeroMexico 708
Jun 30	Bogota (BOG) - Mexico City (MEX)	12:12am	5:21am	AeroMexico 709
Jun 30	Mexico City (MEX) - Houston (IAH)	9:05am	11:28am	AeroMexico 472



YOUTH COLOMBIA MISSION TRIP - JUNE 22-30, 2017 PREPARATION CHECKLIST

Required Documents

- Passport (check expiration date) – **MUST EXPIRE AFTER JANUARY 30, 2018; RENEW IF EARLIER**
- Color copy of your passport
- Copy of your health insurance (*You will be covered for international medical and emergency insurance.*)

Immunizations

Talk to your physician and tell them where you will be traveling. The following are suggestions from the CDC. See your doctor 6-8 weeks before traveling.

- Tetanus**
- Hepatitis A and B**
- Be sure your routine vaccinations are up-to-date.**

**Routine vaccines, as they are often called, such as for influenza, chickenpox, polio, measles/mumps/rubella (MMR), and diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) are given at all stages of life.*

Money

You will need money for the snacks, meals in the airport, two meals at a restaurant in Bogota and souvenirs.

Valuables: We recommend that you do not bring valuables, such as laptops, iPads, jewelry or other items.

Luggage Requirements

Pack light. Luggage on rollers is recommended. Luggage allowance: 40 lbs. – 1 bag. Please allow extra room for supplies. We will divide supplies between team members – 10 lbs. each for a total luggage weight of 50 lbs.

Emergency Contact Information

You will have limited access to internet. If your family has an emergency and needs to contact you, have them contact one of the following: Kristen Jones: 832-647-9008 or kjones@fmhouston.com; Dan Jones: dan@bethanyumc.org or 832.439.0510; Paula Niz: pniz@fmhouston.com

Following The Team:

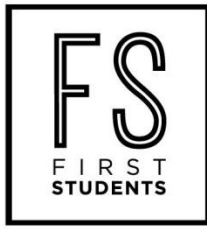
We will encourage the students to not be on their phones for the week. We will post details on the church Facebook page and on the student ministry sites.

Preparation Meetings:

We will have three meetings for information and preparation prior to our trip that we will set in the spring.

Suggestions for a Successful Trip

- Begin praying for the trip and the people we will serve.
- Be flexible and bring a positive attitude.
- Active participation in small group Bible study and worship.



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PACKING LIST

Necessities

- Bible, pen and journal

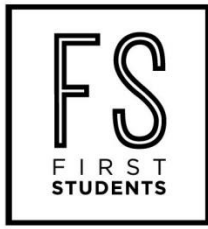
Clothing

- t-shirts and long sleeve shirts
- lightweight long pants
- long shorts or Capri pants
- jeans/wind pants
- skirt/blouse/dress (women) for church
- nice shirt and pants (men) for church
- socks and underwear
- jacket/sweatshirt
- pajamas
- closed toe shoes
- shower shoes

Personal Items

- Towel for pool/beach
- Rain gear
- Sunglasses/sunscreen/hat
- Toiletries
- Tissues
- Medicine in prescription bottle/box (anti-diarrhea)
- OTC: Chewable Pepto-Bismol, Imodium, Tums, Tylenol, sinus/cold medicine, antihistamine
- Antibacterial wipes/hand sanitizer
- Travel size toilet paper or individual packs of tissues
- Bug repellent
- Water bottle
- Ear plugs
- Camera and batteries
- Flashlight
- Backpack/day pack/hip pack
- Snack food (individually packaged, if desired)

Be sure to pack a change of clothes in your carry-on luggage in case checked luggage is delayed or lost. Remember to carry your prescription medicines as well as your passport and color copy of your passport in your carry-on luggage.



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SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER

Date

Hello, (Greeting, according to who you're writing and how well you know them.)

I am writing to tell you a little about what has been happening in my life and the opportunity I have this summer.

June 22-30, 2017, I will be traveling with a mission team from my church, First Methodist Church in Houston, Texas to Bogota and Villeta, Colombia on a short-term mission trip. My team will be serving very poor families with service projects and evangelistic outreaches in Bogota and Villeta. In Villeta, Colombia we will be working at a day retreat center and serving in community with Vacation Bible School (VBS) activities with "His House Church."

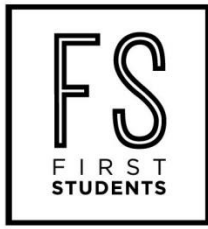
The cost of the trip is \$1600. Would you consider becoming a partner with me and being a part of this outreach to the people of Colombia? All of my support must be raised by May 1st. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, you may make your check payable to: First Methodist Houston – Colombia Mission Trip. All donations are tax deductible. You may send the check to me directly at your address.

I would also like to ask for your prayers for the people we will meet and serve and for my team as we prepare to go. Please pray that God will use me in a great way and that many people will come to know God's love for them, and that our hearts would be open to however God wants to use us.

Thank you in advance for your support through donation and/or prayer. I know God will do great things for the people of Colombia whom we will be serving, as well as our team this summer!

May God bless you and your family,

(Name)



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YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

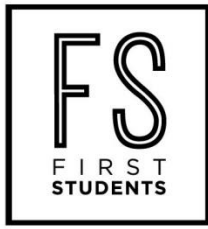
(Optional to use in team building time)

Name _____

Describe your life before you came to know Christ:

Describe how you came to know Christ personally:

Explain how your life is different since you have known Christ:



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Bogota & Villeta, Colombia

YWAM Mobile Teams is a ministry of Youth With A Mission International (YWAM). We are dedicated to the mobilization of missionaries, communities, leaders, ministries and organizations to fulfill the Great Commission. We accomplish this task through Evangelism, Training and Mercy Ministry.

Strategically impacting communities is one of our ministry goals. By partnering with the local church we seek to open doors to the Gospel that have been previously closed, using the "Gringo Factor" of International Outreach teams as the key. Many doors that a Colombian cannot open, like schools, shopping centers and other venues, can be opened by a group of exuberant North Americans.

When God speaks to us about working in a community we try and take a long term approach, where we return to the same area for at least 3 - 5 years, working in local schools, children's ministries and anywhere we can make an impact. Our presence opens up doors that the local church can later enter. We promote unity through churches learning to work together in our outreaches.

Villeta, Colombia is a town of some 30,000 inhabitants 90 km (54 miles) from Bogota. Located at a lower elevation than the capital, temperatures year round are in the mid 20s (80s to 90s F). Although we have visited this town from time to time for many years, July 2013 saw the start off an intentional focus on this community and the surrounding area. With a five day outreach in area schools, 3000 students heard the Gospel as the answer to their circumstances and area Pastors who thought that it could not be done, realized that God is starting a new thing in their community.



One of the key pieces in Villeta's future as well as the future of many Pastors and Missionaries in Colombia is the Pastoral Retreat and Children's Centre, Provision of God.



Pastor Carlos & Esperanza Cuervo are the head of this greatly needed ministry. Carlos and Esperanza worked for more than 30 years with drug addicts in Colombia. Many of those men and women have gone on to form families and several have become ministers of the Gospel. However, after many years of working incessantly, Carlos hit the wall and the following nervous breakdown changed his life; and ministry.

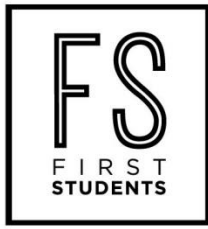
Having never taken the time to "be still," Carlos was forced into a long period of restoration, one that was prolonged because of the lack of facilities for Christian Workers in Colombia.



The Need - In Bogota there are over 2300 Pastors, plus hundreds of Missionaries and other Christian workers, who have produced tremendous results for the Lord - sometimes at great personal cost. Tiredness, depression and the phenomenon of burnout are tools used by the enemy to drag many into sin.

A wise man once said, "Exhaustion and Sin are Siamese Twins."

There are VERY few resources for these ministers and some have had to go out of country to receive needed assistance.



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The Provision of God Farm consists of 1.6 hectares (4 acres) of fruit trees, palms and flowers. Presently there are several buildings with a capacity to house some 70 people (most dormitory style) but the need is to build several smaller single family cabins to house Christian workers and their families as well as a library and reading room.

The farm has electricity, phone, its own well and a swimming pool. The farm is located in the countryside, only 8 minutes from the town of Villeta by car and 30 minutes by foot path.



Reaching Out to the Community

More than just a retreat facility, the farm is also a centre for Children's Ministry in the area. Located just a 20 minute walk from a refugee community and in range of several hundred children from humble circumstances, the farm frequently hosts large groups of children to receive Bible teaching, food or to just splash around in the pool.

In addition to working with these children, FM Houston will be taking a day to help spruce up the center – painting, cleanup, and other items that need doing in a busy retreat center.

Children's Ministry

From the local refugee community to neighborhood kids, you will have the opportunity to be the arms of our Heavenly Father. Even those who have never worked with children will find it easy to do simple activities like blowing up balloons and playing soccer with kids who just want someone to spend time with them.

Church & Community Ministry

Visiting and worshipping with local believers is the highlight of trips. Even if there are no skilled preachers or teachers on your or testimony is always welcome and enjoyed.

We will be working alongside of Pastor Oscar Moreno and his members. They have a passion to reach their town in innovative had several mass evangelistic teams partner with them and as a result have presented the Gospel to thousands of students in area schools.



many short term mission team, a simple greeting

church of some 300 ways. To date we have

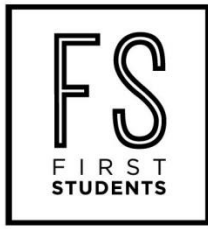
Through these outreaches we started the youth ministry in their church and it has grown to make a continuing impact in the community.

FM Houston will be visiting during school vacation and as such we hope to do presentations that will find those same students "right where they live," in local parks close to their homes.

About Villeta, Colombia

Climate - The city's average annual temperature is 25c (77 °F), and because of its proximity to the equator its temperature is constant year round with minimal temperature variations. Highs of 32 and lows of 16c can be expected. Being close to the equator, it recommended that you bring strong sun block (at least SPF 50) and insect repellent is also useful.

Community & Medical Outreach, YWAM Mobile Teams, Bogota



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Our Community & Medical Outreaches are a social service initiative to impoverished and vulnerable communities. The outreaches tend to the living conditions of the community and provide support for families, Children at Risk, seniors, and youth.

We teach values, principles and serve as a bridge in the social fabric of society. We strive to inspire productivity, development and generate resources in the areas where we work. We add to all of this music, dramas, testimonies, preaching and lots of love. We partner with local pastors and in a weekend reach out to 1000s of needy people.

What activities do we perform?

Our activities depend on our volunteers, depending on their vocations, professions or abilities; we come together in different work groups like: Health Programs (Medical Dentistry), Beauty & Self Image, Evangelism and Teaching, Art and Sports, Legal and Business Advice, Music, Dance and Choreography, Nutrition, Psychology, Counseling, Collecting Donations, Workshops, etc.

About Bogota, Colombia

Bogota is a bustling city of some 11 million people in the metropolitan area, ranging from multi-millionaires to the poorest of the poor. At 2600 metres (8500 ft) of elevation, temperatures are cooler than most people expect for a South American city. Skyscrapers, modern shopping malls, slums, traffic jams, pollution and beggars all are a part of the city. Upper class professional people often speak some English. All students study English in school, but standards are often poor. The language of Colombia is Spanish. You will be appreciated if you attempt a few greetings or even a testimony in Spanish.

Security - Far different than the 90's, Colombia has advanced tremendously in security. While we continue to have the common crime familiar to most world class cities, the days of the mass violence fuelled by the drug trade are well behind us. Teams have been coming to work for us for many years without incident and we are confident in bringing you to serve with us.

You will be orientated as to dos and don'ts, safety precautions, etc. when you arrive.

In general the biggest concern is common crime. Moving as a group and listening to instructions by our staff will keep you safe. However, it is a good idea not to bring valuables with you that you are not willing to risk losing.

Housing - The team will be staying either in ministry housing (one of the houses that we rent), bunk bed style while in Bogota and also at the retreat center. Hot water is usually available and electricity is in North American standard.

Meals - Traditional Colombian food (that takes into account North American tastes) will be prepared by our staff or a cook hired to take care of the team.

Vaccinations - No vaccinations are required for the areas of Colombia where you will work, however some people feel that vaccination against Hepatitis is a wise precaution.

Dress - Mostly casual, as befits a work team, but please keep modesty and the weather in mind. Your dress should be a good example to the young men and women to whom we are ministering.

Be prepared to have at least one outfit that will handle cooler temperatures for your time in Bogota where the temperature will range from 10 - 20c. (50s & 60s F)

