



Multiple Group Project 2019

Information Packet

Location: Guayabo, Costa Rica

Project Dates: March 21 - 31, 2019

Total Fee: \$895

Children 12 and under: \$745

(Age determined on the start date of the project)



**All amounts listed in document are in U.S. dollars. International flights are not included in the participation fee*

Project Overview

Maranatha's Multiple Group Project is designed for teams of 15 or fewer people—groups too small to undertake a typical project on their own. These individual groups may also lack some of the key leadership roles such as cook, spiritual coordinator, team medic, or construction superintendent. Small teams join together for a large group experience, while still maintaining the intimacy and bonding of their own group. Individuals are also welcome to join, but preference is given to small groups.

Volunteers on this project will be working at the Guayabo Seventh-day Adventist School. Maranatha volunteers from Andrews University and Pathways to Success built this large Education and Evangelism Center in 2000. The school has recently had low attendance. Currently they have 50 students attending from grades one to six. The government schools are highly regarded within Costa Rica, and they teach Christian values, so many of the church families don't have a strong desire to send their children to the private school.

The Adventist church on the same property is thriving with more than 400 members and they have a small one-room preschool with 15 students. The preschool could accept more children if they had more space. Once introduced to the education at Guayabo, many parents continue to send their kids to the Adventist school. Usually half of each graduating preschool class will continue to the Guayabo school, and the rest will go to a government-run school. With hopes to increase the preschool attendance, and thereby increase the elementary school attendance, they have requested two new classrooms for the preschool. Volunteers on this project will build the masonry walls for this two-classroom building.

In addition to the masonry construction at the school, the group will also paint two churches nearby. One church is in Aguas Claras.

Project Schedule

Thursday, March 21
Arrival in Liberia, Costa Rica

Friday, March 22
Orientation and first work day

Saturday, March 23
Worship with local congregations,
afternoon nature hike

Sunday - Monday, March 24 - 25
Work days

Tuesday, March 26
Excursion to Playa Hermosa

Wednesday - Friday, March 27 - 29
Work days

Saturday, March 30
Education Sabbath

Sunday, March 31
Morning departures from Liberia,
Costa Rica.

This church was recently completed by a group of volunteers from Canada, not through Maranatha. The church will be stuccoed and ready for paint, and volunteers on the Multiple Group Project will paint the interior and exterior of this project. The group will also be talking to the church about how to start a carpool service for the school. Many children from this community go to the public school because there is no transportation to Guayabo. The second church is in Bogaces, which is right on the road from San Jose to Liberia. Here, the group will paint the interior and exterior of new sabbath school classrooms that were recently constructed and also paint the church to match.

The group of volunteers will also conduct activities that will connect the community to the churches and schools. One major area will be through children's ministry and health education programs that are geared towards children. School will be in session during the project, but the group will partner with other schools and Guayabo to provide these programs to the area children.

Giving Opportunities

Many times on projects, volunteers see need in the communities and would like to meet some of those needs. However, if you know about some of the needs ahead of time, the small groups who join this project can be better prepared.

Education Sabbath Offering

The last Sabbath of the project will be a large Education Sabbath presented by the mission. The goal of this program, which will involve several area churches, is to encourage Adventist education. During the program, an offering will be taken up to provide seed money for a worthy student fund. Each small group on the project (or individual) can fundraise in their local church or area for this need and bring the cash with them on the project to donate. The contribution will not be run through Maranatha, so if donors want tax-deductions, you'll need to work with your local church or school.

Computer Lab

The Guayabo school has a computer lab, but no working computers! Having computers would improve the level of education that the students receive in this very computer-driven world. In addition, it would make the school more competitive with the government-run schools. The easiest way to meet this need would be to provide laptops that are portable and lightweight. If you know of a school, church, or friend with a laptop they no longer use, you may want to ask them to donate it to the Guayabo school.

Why This Maranatha Project?

Short-term mission trips have become a popular way for people to serve others, make a difference, challenge themselves, grow spiritually, and see unique parts of the world. Most people have several reasons for participating, some stronger than others.

It's important for all Maranatha participants to be clear on the purpose(s) of this Maranatha short-term mission trip. Maranatha's mission statement gives the focus, which is "Maranatha spreads the Gospel throughout the world by building people through the construction of urgently needed buildings." If you wanted to put this into bullet points, the three items that jump out are that Maranatha:

- Spreads the Gospel throughout the world.
- Builds people.
- Facilitates the construction of urgently needed buildings.

Notice that "visiting a new country" or "posting cool pictures" or "donating to a worthy cause" aren't part of the mission statement, even though each one of these may happen on your Maranatha project. But Maranatha's three broad, yet clear, purposes will guide the planning of this project. People say, "This is what it's all about."

While Maranatha will do 30-50 short-term mission trips in 2018, this particular project, the "Multiple Group Project" (MGP), will emphasize the following primary purposes under the overall mission statement of Maranatha. These are what will shape what we plan, what we do, and how we evaluate this particular Maranatha mission project:

1. Service opportunities that grow faith in God.
2. Challenges and bonding for each small group and the larger group.
3. Quality work for God, for others, and for one's self.

Please take some time to reflect on the reason(s) why you are going on this Maranatha mission trip. How do your purposes match what you can expect for this project? What adjustments might you need to make?

Flexibility

“FLEXIBILITY” is the one key word that will be necessary in all that we do on this mission trip. It’s not the purpose of the mission trip, but it will be necessary to achieve our purposes. While we make plans, we can almost guarantee that there will be surprises that force us to adapt. If we aren’t flexible, we’ll have plenty to feel miserable about, and we will lose out on multiple opportunities to serve others and to grow ourselves.

Your flexibility will be tested when you’re put on a job you don’t want to do OR when your accommodations are different from back home OR when the food is strange and tastes different OR when some people bug you and you can’t get away from them. Most of us want to grow and improve, but most of us don’t want to go through discomfort or make changes in order to achieve that growth.

By going on a Maranatha mission trip, you are putting yourself into a great environment for growth, but that means changes in your life. Are you ready for that? Are you hoping for that? Have you already started to pray for this to be a reality? FLEXIBILITY enables you to grow without breaking. By all means, bring FLEXIBILITY with you because you’ll need it just about every day.

Accommodations

During the project, volunteers will stay at Thermomania Resort. While the name says “resort,” the hotel is basic, between a 1- and 2-star facility, depending on how you rate hotels. This area is a popular tourist destination because of the accessibility to thermal hot springs. This hotel is mainly popular for those using the hot springs during the day, but they have some rooms for those wishing to spend the night. We chose this level of accommodations because it’s adequate, safe, and clean, and it keeps the participation fee manageable for school groups and families. We mention this in advance so you can adjust your expectations for the mission trip.

The rooms are clean and nicely furnished with private bathroom, AC, bed linens, and towels. No washcloths are provided, so you may want to bring your own. There is no hot water in the bathrooms. WiFi is available, but it is not as fast as you may be used to at home. Don’t plan on any audio or video conferences, but it should suffice for sending an email home. Laundry services are available at an additional cost.

There is no regular pool, but there are pools that are filled with water heated from the volcanoes. The water is not as hot as a hot tub, but it is warm. The group will have time between dinner and worship to enjoy the hot tubs at the hotel each evening.

The group will eat and have worships at the hotel. Each day the group will take sack lunches on the bus to the various job sites. The hotel is approximately 10 minutes from the closest job site and about 40 minutes from the farthest job site.

Small groups will be divided into rooms but kept together as much as possible. Volunteers should plan on staying in double or triple occupancy rooms with a roommate. If you would like to room with someone in particular, please let us know prior to the final deadline of the project.

Excursions

On Tuesday, volunteers will take a break from work and enjoy the beauty of Costa Rica. The group will travel about an hour and thirty minutes to the Pacific coast of Costa Rica to a beach called Playa Hermosa. Here the group will have the afternoon to enjoy the beach. The beach is safe and clean and has a sandy, gradual slope down to the water. There is a lifeguard on duty, shaded areas, and bathrooms. We have arranged a day use pass at a local hotel that also has a regular pool and additional shaded seating for the group to enjoy. There isn’t much to see under the water, but you can bring snorkeling equipment if you wish to explore. Feel free to bring any additional fun beach items you wish like blow up floaties, beach games, etc.

The beach is not very crowded, but it's also not very touristy, so there aren't a lot of opportunities for people to purchase souvenirs. The tourist attractions in this area are waterfalls, hot springs, and volcano hikes, so souvenirs are not common. If you and your group want to purchase souvenirs, you should make plans to do so at the airport upon arrival or departure.

Optional Afternoon Excursions

Scheduled as Desired

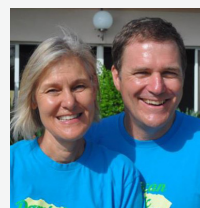
Located near the hotel are a few unique opportunities for activities that can be planned as a short trip during the work days. Each group leader will work with the project coordinator to determine if they'll take part in an activity and what day they will do them. There is a zipline in the mountains that takes people flying through the tree canopy. There is also a thermal energy plant—something few places in the world have as a source of energy. This area of Costa Rica boasts of being the only place in the world that has four sources of energy: solar, wind, hydro, and thermal. The plant we can arrange to visit gets its energy from the thermal energy of the volcano underground. This would be a great educational experience for those who would like to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Each of these activities is an additional \$5 per person. If you decide to do these activities, you'll need to bring the cash with you on the project and pay the project coordinator in person.

Leadership

Steve Case | Project Coordinator and Spiritual Coordinator

Steve is the president of Involve Youth, a youth ministry organization that energizes young people for service. This includes leading several Maranatha projects each year, including the annual Multiple Group Project. Steve lives near the Maranatha headquarters in Northern California with his wife, Marit.



Luther Findley | Construction Superintendent

Luther Findley has worked in different branches of construction for years. He and his wife, Darlene, live in Yreka, California. They enjoy volunteering on Maranatha projects in the United States and around the world. Luther is a person who often sees spiritual lessons in the process of construction. He's learned to trust God, especially when it comes to quality construction with volunteers who are often times new to the construction process.



Doug Withrow | Painting Coordinator

Doug joins the group from Yountville, California, where he is the administrator for the Napa Valley Adventist Retirement Estates. He and his wife, Judy, have three grown children and four grandkids. In his free time, Doug enjoys camping, hiking, and golfing. He had always wanted to go on a Maranatha mission trip, and when he received some unexpected money, he decided to use it to take his family on the Summer Family Project in Bolivia in 2018. On this project, he will be returning to coordinate the painting. Doug is looking forward to meeting new volunteers and serving our brothers and sisters in Costa Rica.



Maggie Petersen | Head Cook

Ever since her retirement, Maggie has been cooking for all kinds of groups in all kinds of places, including Maranatha family projects, Maranatha's Multiple Group Project, and other short-term mission trips. She's amazing in demonstrating flexibility with her circumstances, equipment, staffing, and food availability. Don't plan on losing weight with Maggie's tasty cooking but expect familiar as well as local flavors and treats.



Mary Johnson | Children's Ministry Coordinator

Mary Johnson joins the group from Northern California where she works as a middle and high school Spanish teacher. She recently stepped out in faith and took a year off from work to devote more time to short-term mission projects. Many of her trips are Maranatha projects. Her optimism, faith, bilingual skills, and love for God and kids make her a natural for leading the children's ministry program on this project.



Expenses

All amounts listed are in U.S. dollars.

In order to reserve space for a group, the leader must register the group and pay a \$500 nonrefundable deposit.

The total fee of \$895 covers housing, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, translators, local excursions, short-term travel insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags. Children 12 and under have a \$150 discount.

This fee can either be paid individually on a per person basis or together as a small group. If your group is paying all together, send a check to Maranatha along with a list of the participants whose fees are included. The group leader's fee will be discounted the original \$500 group deposit that was paid to secure and reserve your spots on the project.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by February 18. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

Payments can be made by check sent to the Maranatha office in California (please include the small group name, individual volunteer's name, and "Multiple Group 2019") or by credit or debit card online or over the phone.

For Canadian tax-deductible receipts, payments must be made by check to the Maranatha Volunteers International (Canada) Association (address located at the end of this information packet). At this time, Maranatha cannot issue tax-deductible receipts for credit card payments.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations, please either have donations sent directly to you or work with your local church treasurer to collect funds and issue tax-deductible receipts, since it is difficult for Maranatha to track individual small checks. If your church will not work with you, please wait until you have collected the full amount for your participation fee before submitting it to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

- **Flight to Liberia, Costa Rica:** \$670-\$1,200
- **Passport:** \$130 or \$110 for renewal

About Costa Rica

Costa Rica is a beautiful country with both Caribbean and Pacific beaches, plus the high mountains and rain forest between the two oceans. They say there are two seasons in Costa Rica: the rainy season and the "not quite as rainy" season. The Pacific side, gets much less rain, than the Caribbean side. March is the dry season, so while there may be some rain showers, the foliage isn't as green as other times of the year. Costa Rica draws a lot of tourists because of its beaches and mountains, the rainforests, volcanos, and birds. It is also a major thoroughfare for butterflies; there are more species of butterflies in the country of Costa Rica than the entire continent of Africa.

From the 1960s through the 1990s, many Central American countries engaged in civil wars; Costa Rica did not. The country has benefited immensely from keeping the peace! Life expectancy is almost 80 years of age, and the economy has been much stronger than warring countries. Costa Rica boasts of not even having a military, although it does have a police force.

Costa Rican culture is vibrant in color, music, and food. Influences from indigenous people groups blend with the influences from the Spanish colonization of the Americas to create a rich culture epitomized by the Costa Rican phrase "Pura Vida" or "Full of Life!" The cuisine of Costa Rica includes delicious tropical fruits, tamales, and meats.



Facts and Figures

Capital: San Jose

Population: 4.9 million

Language: Spanish

Climate: Tropical

Religion: Catholic 76%,
Evangelical 14%

Currency: Costa Rican Colón

But one of the most popular dishes is “gallo pinto,” a combination of rice and beans. This is not only a national dish but also a staple food item, and it may be served at breakfast, lunch, and supper. Each person fixes it his or her own way.

Christopher Columbus landed in “Puerto Limon” in 1502 and saw it as a great seaport for exporting Costa Rica’s resources to Spain. In 1870, Puerto Limon was established to export bananas and other grains from Costa Rica to the rest of the world. It continues to be Costa Rica’s most important port. The capital city of San Jose is in the middle of the country, up in the mountains. The western part of the country is known for ecotourism.

Travel Information

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the city of Liberia. If you arrive or depart outside the posted time frames, you may have additional wait times at the airport or be responsible for paying the additional transportation costs for your individual airport transfer.

Please complete the online registration and wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Volunteers will travel together, by bus, to the project location.

Flights

Arrival | Please arrive in Liberia, Costa Rica (airport code LIR) in the afternoon or evening, between 12:00 p.m. noon and 9:00 p.m. of Thursday, March 21.

Departure | Please depart from Liberia, Costa Rica (LIR) in the morning or early afternoon of Sunday, March 31.

Arriving Early or Staying Late?

Costa Rica has some beautiful travel destinations. Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than March 21 or stay beyond March 31 to explore the country on your own. The Maranatha dates are firm, and any extra travel must coincide with the arrival and departure windows above. Please make your own hotel and transportation plans for any days outside of the Maranatha project dates. If you have any questions, feel free to call Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

Travel Resources

CI Azumano Travel: 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle Dpenha or Azumano Team at corporatetravel@ciazumano.com

Butler Travel: 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at nathan@butlertravel.com or with Ellen at ellen@butlertravel.com.

Kayak: www.kayak.com

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, mention Maranatha to receive a discounted service charge.

Entry Requirements

Below are the requirements for U.S. and Canadian citizens. If you hold a passport from another country, please consult the Costa Rican embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.

Passport | All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (September 31, 2019). If you do not have a passport, United States (U.S.) citizens can apply at any U.S. post office or online at <http://travel.state.gov>. Canadian citizens can apply online at www.passport.gc.ca. It can take up to two months to complete the entire process, so plan accordingly to give yourself enough time to receive your passport.

Citizens of the U.S. and Canada do not need a visa to enter Costa Rica. Upon entering the country, each person will be given a free 30-day entry.

Traveling With Minors

If you are traveling with a legal minor (under the age of 18 on the date you depart), both parents or legal guardians must travel with the minor. Otherwise, you must have two parental consent forms notarized. This provides government entities with evidence that both guardians have consented to their child leaving the country with the other guardian and Maranatha. One original must be mailed to Maranatha, and the other original must stay with

you while you travel. If a parent is divorced, the missing parent still needs to sign the form unless the parent traveling with the minor has sole legal custody. In that case, a copy of the divorce paperwork, indicating sole custody, must be included. If a parent has died, a copy of the death certificate must be included.

You can download a PDF of the Parental Consent Form at <http://www.maranatha.org/resources>. This form will ask for two people as appointees of the minor. The first appointee will be the guardian traveling with the child. The other will be Steve Case, Maranatha's project coordinator for this project

Staying Healthy

Maranatha requires that every volunteer have a current tetanus vaccine (within the last 10 years). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends vaccines for hepatitis A and typhoid.

You may already have some of these vaccinations, and they may still be good for this trip. Others you may deem unnecessary for this trip. Maranatha recommends that you schedule a consultation with your physician or a travel clinic to discuss the medical risks in Costa Rica and the ways to minimize them.

Zika

Zika is a mosquito-borne disease that acts similar to a hard-hitting flu with symptoms lasting about two weeks. There is currently no vaccine or treatment for the disease, and the CDC has issued a Level 2 warning. This warning does not suggest that you postpone all travel, but it does urge travelers to take heightened precautions to avoid being bitten

This virus is still being studied, and information is continuing to be released. Currently, there are no known long-term effects; however, there does seem to be a link between the virus and possible birth defects in babies born from women who were infected during their pregnancy. If you or your partner is pregnant, think you might be pregnant, or are trying to get pregnant in the next six months, Maranatha recommends speaking with your doctor to determine if you should travel.

How to Register

To register, please complete the online registration and pay the full participation fee or an initial deposit for at least half the total participation fee. You can make this payment by credit card online, over the phone, or with a check made out to Maranatha Volunteers International and mailed to the address below. If for any reason you need to cancel your participation, Maranatha will do our best to refund your deposit up until one month before travel. After that point, \$150 is non-refundable, and the remainder will depend on the reservations and the project arrangements already made.

Register online at Maranatha.org or over the phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (916) 774-7700

Fax: (916) 774-7701

Email: volunteer@maranatha.org

Website: www.maranatha.org

Mailing Address:

Maranatha Volunteers International
990 Reserve Drive
Suite 100
Roseville, CA 95678

Canadian Payments Only:

Maranatha Volunteers International
Association
c/o V06494C
PO Box 6494, Station Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3

Social Media

Share your mission trip with family and friends! And be sure to tag us on social media!



@maranathavolunteersinternational



@gomaranatha



@maranatha

Use our hashtag,
#maranathavolunteersinternational
when posting, so we can feature
your trip!

THE MARANATHA STORE

BUY MARANATHA MERCHANDISE!

Share the spirit of service with Maranatha-themed apparel and accessories.*

2019 MARANATHA T-SHIRT \$10



The 2019 Maranatha shirt features a 50th anniversary logo on the sleeve, made with a poly/cotton heather blend by Bella + Canvas. Mens cut only; color is "heather deep teal."

HARD HAT \$13



This MSA V-Gard hard hat, with Staz-On suspension, ensures excellent shock absorption on the job site.

MARANATHA.ORG

*All confirmed volunteers on an International Maranatha Open Team receive a Maranatha t-shirt as part of their participation fee.



**TO ORDER, VISIT [MARANATHA.ORG/STORE](https://www.maranatha.org/store)
OR CALL (916) 774-7700**

All prices are excluding sales tax and shipping.

CAP \$12



All cotton and easy to pack, this cap is sure to keep the sun off your face on a mission project and at home. Available in Khaki and Navy.

WATER BOTTLE \$15



The autospout water bottle by Contigo features a one-touch-button spout for convenient one-handed drinking. It also has a spout shield to protect the spout from debris and dirt when not in use—perfect for the project site.

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