

2024

ECUADOR

INFORMATION PACKET

EXPRESSION58
LOVE | JUSTICE | CREATIVITY

WELCOME!

Thank you for your interest in joining our 2024 team to Ecuador! We are incredibly excited and expectant for all we are going to experience on this year's trip. Expression58 has a long-standing relationship with ministries and organizations on the ground in Quito, Ecuador, where we have a number of missionaries working on various projects. This packet contains information about this year's trip as well as resources to help make your participation in the trip a reality.

HISTORY

Expression58 connected to our team in Quito, Ecuador through the family of E58 Senior Pastor, Jonatan Toledo. The Toledo family have been missionaries to Ecuador for more than 20 years with a long history of developing and contributing to the nation. In 2015, Casa Mis Sueños, started by Mela and Sabri Toledo, was given official non-profit status and has been serving vulnerable women, children and families in and around Quito. Since Expression58 church formed in 2007 we have sent multiple teams to Ecuador every year to support the vision of our team at Casa Mis Sueños.

PROJECTS

For this trip, the team will partner with the Toledo family and our Justice Partner, Casa Mis Sueños on the ground to support projects at their church and throughout the city of Quito and other surrounding areas & villages where we have projects.

We are scheduled to partner with the following ministries:

- Minister in the Toledo family church and other partner churches
- Serve and minister at a juvenile prison for girls
- Prophetic outreach and street evangelism
- Minister and build relationships with prostitutes on the streets of Quito and other surrounding areas & villages
- Work with *Casa Mis Sueños*, a rehabilitation home for girls coming out of the juvenile prisons (*Proyecto Libertad*) and the red light district (*Zona Viva*)
- Meet with ladies and their families who were or are still in prostitution
- Serve at a feeding program for children
- Visit hospitals and pray for the sick
- Meeting with and minister to the Trans community
- Various other projects in and around Quito

THE TRIP

Duration: July 18th - July 29th 2024

Deadline for commitment: You will need to complete our online **Ecuador 2024 Application Form (which can be found at Expression58.org/Ecuador)** by Friday, **March 1st**, which includes a brief online questionnaire and references by leaders and/or pastors who know you well, along with a non-refundable \$100 deposit to reserve your spot. We will need you to complete this application regardless of your actual participation in this trip. Your place on the team will be solidified upon receipt of your first payment by **March 26th**. The \$100 trip deposit is non-refundable.

Cost: \$2,600 (\$2500+\$100 deposit) for each participant. This amount covers airfare, food, ground transportation, room and board, travel insurance and other incidental costs. Each participant will be responsible for bringing their own money for personal spending above the budgeted amount.

Additional responsibilities: Any individuals committed to participating in the Ecuador 2024 trip will be responsible for attending all informational meetings unless otherwise approved by Jona Toledo. Please reach out to Joy Attmore, missions@expression58.org to be excused from a meeting and/or with questions. You will receive an email with the meeting dates shortly.

Cost Breakdown and Payment Schedule:

Deposit	March 1st	\$100
1st Payment	April 1st	\$1,200
Final Payment	June 1st	\$1,300

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

All donations made to you by supporters are tax-deductible through Expression58.

Checks can be mailed to:
Expression58
Attn: Ecuador Trip
225 South Chevy Chase Drive
Glendale, CA 91205

Checks should be made out to **EXPRESSION58**. Your supporters can specify whom the check is for by writing **ECUADOR 2024, (YOUR NAME)** in the memo line.

Supporters can donate online (you will receive an email with the link this week). Make sure that your supporters specify **ECUADOR 2024, (YOUR NAME)** in the “*OTHER*” giving field section BEFORE confirming the donation. You will also be able to pay for your own trip through this same link.

Please note any money that family/friends may give to you personally for the trip will not be tax deductible. It must be turned into the Expression58 office directly (marked in the manner noted above) in order to be classified as tax-deductible.

If for any reason, you need to withdraw from the trip, or you collect more money than is required for the cost of the trip, all funds donated and collected by Expression58 are non-refundable. Those funds will stay on credit in your missions account for one year at E58 and may be applied towards a future trip OR may be applied towards Justice Group projects. Please also note that the cost of the trip must be paid in full in order to participate.

**** IMPORTANT PASSPORT INFORMATION: Please confirm that all information is current on your passport now so that you will be ready at the time of departure. There is a “Six Month Validity Passport Rule,” that requires passports to have at least six months of validity when traveling internationally. Most countries will not permit a traveler to enter their country unless the passport is set to expire at least six months AFTER the final day of travel. ****

– Please sign and return to the Expression58 Office –

I have read, acknowledge, and agree to abide by all of the instructions stated in this information packet.

Printed Name: _____

Please print legibly

Signature: _____

Today's Date: _____

WRITING SUPPORT LETTERS

There are many ways that you can begin to raise support for your trip. One of the most effective ways to do this is through sending out support letters. Support letters are engaging, clearly articulated letters you can deliver to potential supporters which helps them to understand the value of the trip and your involvement in it. Support letters should not seem like a huge undertaking for you. If you focus on a few straightforward steps to creating the letter, you should be able to have great success funding your trip.

- 1.) **Greeting:** Address the family or individual and explain the incredible opportunity you have in taking part in this trip. Introduce the organization, including its vision and its goals. This will express to your supporters that the trip has solid guidance and support. It creates confidence in the supporter to financially assist you.
- 2.) **Give value to the trip and the itinerary:** It is always important to provide a detailed explanation of what you are going to be doing while abroad, and couple that with the social or historical significance of each event. If the organization sponsoring the trip has a special project or connection which allows for greater success on the ground, be sure to highlight that information. Your contributors will always be satisfied to know that your time abroad will be timely, important, and effective.
- 3.) **Clearly state the financial need:** At the end of the day, this trip has a cost, and you want to be able to fund as much of it as possible. Your contributors can handle the dollar amount and it establishes the magnitude of your need. Deadlines and payment schedules also inform the reader and it encourages the timeliness of their donations.
- 4.) **Clearly state how your supporters can give:** Be incredibly detailed and clear about how your potential supporters can donate to your trip. If the sponsoring organization has restrictions or specific instructions regarding giving, be sure these details are outlined in your letter. This could mean the difference between your supporters benefitting from their tax-deductible donation or not. Explain to whom checks should be issued, and how they can specify that the donation is toward your trip.
- 5.) **Be confident and thankful:** There is no shame in being passionate about going on this trip. There is no need to feel that sending this letter is an imposition to your supporters. Don't make excuses for why you want to go – own it. Stake your claim in why you believe this trip, and why it means something to you. Be thankful for your supporters' time and consideration. Simple etiquette is respectful and thoughtful.
- 6.) **Offer your information:** Give your potential supporters a way to contact you with any questions or concerns.

TIPS TO MAKE YOUR LETTER STAND OUT

- 1.) **Keep it brief:** It is ideal to keep the informative portion of the letter as close to 1 page as possible. The administrative information can go beyond to a second page, but you want your amount of information to be digestible. Using a standard-sized font and short paragraphs will encourage your supporters to actually read your letter. If possible, make double-sided copies of a two-page letter rather than stapling them together. You want your letter to be read with minimal effort.
- 2.) **Make your letter engaging and fun:** You don't have to be too formal with your language or even the fonts you use. You want your supporters to be able to understand your enthusiasm for this trip. Include a couple of pictures that will allow your supporters to have a more tangible and emotional connection to the trip. Let your personality come forward.
- 3.) **Break down the cost of the trip:** Not everyone you know can donate \$100 or more to your trip. Simply looking at the large total can be overwhelming, frustrating, or saddening for supporters who don't have the means to be overly generous. People want to feel like their contribution will have significance at any level. Break it down for them.

For a \$2,500 trip, you will likely receive donations from more of your potential supporters by stating, "I can cover the entire cost of this trip if 50 people donate \$50". Or "I can take care of my airfare by the due date if 30 people can donate \$35". If you can break it down, your supporters realize that any support is valuable support.

- 4.) **Know your audience:** Not everyone you send your letters to is necessarily a Christian. Not everyone you send your letters to has an issue with your faith. Language is important. If you have a large support base, then you may want to consider writing a couple of different letters. The language of Christianity will not always make sense to people, especially to those who aren't in church. However, some of your supporters may LOVE very emotional and direct expressions of faith within your letter, which could be used to your advantage.
- 5.) **Complimentary postage:** It may serve you well to include a small envelope with postage stamps already applied with your support letter. You may also want to include the address, whether it be to you personally or to the sponsoring organization. This streamlines the process. Conceivably, your supporter could read your letter, write you a check, and be prepared to send the letter within a matter of minutes. This little extra step can go a long way in terms of your success if you are willing to go the extra mile.