

Welcome to 911 Life Ministries

www.911life.org



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is 911 Life Ministries?

- 911 represents Psalm 91:1, which says: "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."
 - Like Psalm 91:1, 911 Life is designed to be a refuge for those in need and to usher them into the presence of God.
- 911 Life Ministries was founded by Tom and Jen Atwater in 2018 to help restore vulnerable women, children, and families in Medellín, Colombia, South America. Tom, Jen, and their four children continue to serve as missionaries to the vulnerable populations of Colombia since 2011.
- In a country where 84% of all children are born to single mothers, the absence of a father is the root of most of the problems we see. Our solution is the restoration of the entire family through psychosocial and spiritual care, mentoring, discipleship, and education. We see a lasting transformation occurring daily as those we serve come into contact with the powerful love of the one perfect Father: GOD!
- Since we minister directly to many vulnerable people, the ministry requires an army of believers to help carry the load. **This is where mission trips come in!** A church mission trip team can come alongside us to love the vulnerable and lost, bringing a fresh impulse and push to 911 Life and other ministries in the city of Medellín.

What will my week in Medellin look like?

- Each morning we start with worship and a devotional time to get ready for the day.
- In the afternoons and evenings you will be serving in various projects in 911 and other ministries. For example:
 - Assisting our English teachers in teaching conversational English to un-churched youth. This usually involves giving your testimony on how Jesus changed your life and listening to the students and their life stories. You will also be encouraged to pray for them.
 - Going on home visits in the community to visit the families of the children in our projects. This is a time to listen, love, and pray for those in need.
 - Assisting the teachers in our youth center for kids 5 to 12 years old. This can be anything from praying for the kids one-on-one, teaching English, or putting on a weeklong VBS, and much more.
 - Partnering with the local Colombian church in street evangelism outreaches. Through these rewarding activities, you realize how much people really need Jesus and how His love expressed through you can change their lives. Many who have never led anyone to Christ find themselves leading several to Jesus here in Colombia in a natural and loving way. Also, many who have never seen a miracle will experience God's miraculous power as they move out of their comfort zone.
 - Often if there is someone able to teach or preach on the team, we will have them teach to our own staff and/or clients, or in another ministry or church.
 - There is usually a fun integration activity to get to know our staff and clients during the week
 - We may also have work projects to complete
- We tailor the activities and the schedule according to the talents, abilities and interests of the visiting missions team.
- In the evenings we have a debriefing session where each team member is able to speak and express themselves regarding their favorite moment during the day, what challenged them and if they have any need for prayer. This is a time to love and lift up each member and create team unity.
- We always love to have one day of tourism to show off how lovely Colombia is and to enjoy some fun!

Who takes care of the transportation, food, water, housing and translators in Colombia?

- Upon your arrival in the Medellin airport, someone from 911 Life will pick you up, and 911 Life will provide all transportation for your stay in the city until we return you to the airport on your departure date.
- 911 Life provides delicious and healthy food and filtered water for you.
- 911 Life provides anointed and equipped bilingual translators
- During all activities and throughout each day, one of our bilingual team coordinators will be accompanying your team.
- 911 Life will provide you with housing during your stay

Do I need to apply for a special visa to enter Colombia?

No. If you are a US citizen, you will get a tourist Visa stamped in your passport upon arrival. No other Visa is needed for short-term, tourist visitors. The tourist visa is free of charge.

Do I need proof of any vaccinations in order to enter the country of Colombia?

No vaccinations are needed if you fly directly into Colombia from the United States.

Weather

Located at 5000 feet above sea level and less than 500 miles from the equator, Medellin, Colombia, has the best weather in the world! Temperatures throughout the year are consistently between 65 - 85 degrees F with 65% humidity. There are very few mosquitos or annoying insects, and the moderate rainfall rarely causes inconveniences. We suggest bringing sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses, as well as a light jacket or sweatshirt for the evenings. Since it is so high above sea level, there is little to no risk for mosquito-borne diseases such as Yellow Fever or West Nile Virus. Water from the tap in Medellin is safe to drink, but 911 Life will provide treated bottled water just to be extra safe.

Food

You can expect to be served Colombian-style rice, beans, salad, chicken, beef, pork, tropical fruit, veggies, pasta dishes, eggs and cereal (for breakfast), and some basic sandwiches. Please try to be flexible and tolerant by eating the food prepared. If you

have any food allergies, please let us know ahead of time through the Application Form that will be sent to you.

Safety: Is Medellin, Colombia safe or is it like the TV series NARCOS?

Medellin is like any other large city that has good neighborhoods and bad neighborhoods, so it's important to be "street smart." Don't flash cash in the streets, wear pricey or seemingly pricey jewelry or accessories, etc. We don't go to any unsafe neighborhoods unless we're specifically invited by the local authorities (which might be the gangs). One of our rules is that our guests are always in groups of at least two when on the street, even when going to the corner to get a soda. Please always ask permission to go anywhere other than the scheduled activities. You are able to move around, but we need to know where you are and who you are with at all times for security reasons. When staying at the 911 Life Missions Base, everyone should be inside the base for the night by 9:00 pm unless there is an activity scheduled. Please be very **careful crossing the streets** (especially right in front of the foundation). Motorists rarely respect traffic laws or norms, motorcycles speed between cars, and buses and taxis drive very erratically.

Colombians are very warm and friendly. Please always smile, say "Hola," hug those in our projects, and look people in the eyes when talking to them. In Colombian culture, this shows strength, love, and respect. Be sure to smile, say "Hola", and look people in the eyes on the streets as well.

What's the Dress Code?

We do not employ a strict dress code at 911 Life. However, we do give suggestions regarding what is normal and appropriate for this culture. Usually, men and women in Medellín wear pants, not shorts. For women, wearing short shorts is considered sexy and can easily distract from ministry. However, you are welcome to wear modest shorts while on a tourist day or relaxing at the base. For church events, Colombian men typically wear tennis shoes or dress shoes and jeans or slacks for men. Women typically wear jeans, or slacks with a blouse. Dresses are also fine to wear. Most of the ministry times outside of church will be on the street or at the base, so feel free to dress comfortably. Flip flops are fine for the dorm and bathrooms but not in 911 Life or on the street. It's preferable to have closed-toe footwear on the street because of uneven sidewalks, and the abundance of unannounced holes and broken concrete.

What Personal Items Should I Bring?

When staying at 911 Life, please bring your own towels for the shower. It's also important to bring your own personal water bottle to carry with you throughout the day. Many public and church bathrooms do not have toilet paper, paper towels, or soap, so we suggest visitors bring travel kleenex (tissues) and hand sanitizer.