

Nicaragua - May 2025

Date: May 12-17, 2025

Where: San Rafael del Sur & surrounding areas

Cost: \$1,500 - \$1,600 *(dependent on team size & airfare)*

Mission Partner: Wilmer Aviles

Focus of the Trip:

Over the past 14 years we have been working alongside our mission partner Wilmer Aviles to impact the lives of people living in extreme poverty through meeting both physical and spiritual needs. Providing food, medical care, and education, as well as church planting have been our primary focuses over the past decade. However in 2025 God is leading us to begin two new ministries. In March we began a ministry to provide theological training to pastors and church leaders in five different regions of Nicaragua. In May we are launching a ministry that will provide homes for families living in extreme poverty. Our goal is to build a minimum of two homes in 2025.

Our trip in May will be focused on constructing the first home of 2025, as well as providing discipleship training for youth and college students in San Rafael del Sur.

Basic Details:

- Travel documents needed
 - Passport

- Air Travel
 - Flight
 - American Airlines :: Flight Times TBD
 - Flights will be booked once the team is established

- Travel Insurance
 - Travel insurance is included in the price of your trip
 - You will be provided with a travel insurance card prior to our departure date
 - Insurance covers major medical and emergency evacuation

- Lodging // Food // Water // Transportation
 - We will be staying at our Mission House in San Rafael del Sur
 - All lodging is bunk style
 - Each dorm room has A/C and bathrooms
 - Food & Water will be provided by the Mission House and is safe for consumption
 - We will have purified water with us at all times
 - All transportation will be provided by Mission House

Financial Commitment:

- Cost Breakdown
 - Airfare: \$650-\$750
 - On the Ground: \$750
 - Admin & Supplies: \$100

- Financial Deadlines
 - Deposit: \$250 :: March 15, 2025
 - 2nd Payment: \$500 :: April 15, 2025
 - Final Payment: \$850 :: May 5, 2025

Team Meetings:

- Team Training :: TBA
- Final Prep Team Training :: TBA

How to register:

- Register and pay your deposit @ www.westrome.org/missions
- You may also pay your deposit...
 - Via cash or check
 - Make checks payable to West Rome Baptist Church
 - You may bring your payments to the welcome center on Sun. mornings & Wed. nights
 - You may bring payments to the church office between 8:30a-5p, Mon. – Thurs.
 - You may mail your payment to...
 - West Rome Baptist Church :: 914 Shorter Ave :: Rome, GA 30165

Contact Information:

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Topher Stockton at your convenience.

- Topher: tstockton@westrome.org // 678-451-7154

Keys to Raising Support :: The Team Building Approach

Building a Support Team

Each individual team member will be responsible for developing his or her own support team. The support team consists of:

- Prayer Supporters
- Encouragers
- Financial Contributors

The concept is to develop a team, not just to raise funds. The most important need you will have is for people to pray for you, before and during your trip.

The Team

The idea of the team is to involve as many people in the mission experience as possible.

The team is a...

- ministry through you to the team (TEAM = goers + prayer support + senders)
- means by which others can share in the blessings of the mission (Phil. 4:17)
- Biblical approach (II Cor. 8:4)
- means by which others become missions-minded Christians through giving

You should seek people that you want on your team, not those who you think will give money. Remember, if the prayer support is in place, everything else will fall into place.

Raising Funds

If you cannot pay for the entire cost of your trip, the most effective proven method to raise individual funds is to write a letter for distribution to friends, co-workers and church members. Professional fund-raisers for large organizations will tell you that people will give to people they know. Potential contributors are happy to have the opportunity to invest in someone they know personally or an endeavor they care about. God's Word promises us that He will supply our every need.

Prepare the Team List

- Usually 25 or more
- Not all West Rome Baptist Church members (recommend at least 50% outside our church)
- Friends, relatives, co-workers, Christian contacts, non-Christians that God may open a door to witness to through this process

Write the Letter

You are asking people to support your ministry through West Rome Baptist Church. If you are asking for financial contributions, you are asking them to help with the cost that you will incur by conducting the ministry (transportation, meals while on the field, in-country housing, airfare, travel insurance, etc.) A common testimony for team members is that while they were initially put off by the idea of sending support letters, the experience turned out to be a highlight of the trip.

Tracking Support Received

We (the church) will keep detailed records of all contributions given to each member of the mission team, but we also recommend that you keep your own records to help track your progress and for follow-up.

The following guidelines will help you keep track of the support you receive:

- Create an Excel spreadsheet or journal to record the financial contributions you receive
 - Record the Amount (\$\$) given and the date it was given
 - Record the method of payment – Example: cash or check (if check, record the check #)
 - Record the name and address of the person who gave the support
- Turn in money to the church as you receive it.
 - It gives the missions staff the opportunity to help you keep record of the contributions you receive.
 - It will help to insure that money does not get lost

Support Letters

The following guidelines will help you in writing your support letter:

Types of letters you can send:

- A letter asking for prayer support only (*if you are paying your own way*)
- A letter asking for prayer and financial support
- A letter asking for project support (*if you are paying your own way*)

Drafting your letter:

- While sample letters that you find on the internet can be very helpful in drafting your support letter, be careful that you do not fall prey to the temptation to copy the letter you find and just change a few details. Your team wants to hear from your heart, not someone else's. We encourage you to use sample letters to help you with format or creative ideas but the content needs to come from you.
- **We recommend including some or all of the following information in your letter:**
 - ***Make it personal***
 - Tell about where you are going and how God has called you to go
 - Include why you want to be involved in the trip (*reasons that you feel the most strongly about*)
 - Information regarding the culture, economics, and politics of the country you are going to
 - Description of what the team will be doing – the main focus of the trip
 - ***Provide the important details***
 - The cost of the trip (\$)
 - The amount (\$) you are sacrificially giving towards the total cost of the trip
 - You may want to recommend a giving amount (*\$25, \$50, \$100, etc...*) for financial supporters.
 - ***Invite them to get involved***
 - How you would like the reader to be involved (*prayer, financial, both*)
 - All checks must be payable to West Rome Baptist Church
 - Mail the check to you (*the team member*)
 - The date you need the money
 - ***Keep the letter brief*** – we recommend one page
 - ***Mail your support letters as early as you can*** – if you wait you might not get the support you need

Other Ways to Raise Financial Support

- Start a GoFundMe page :: learn more @ gofundme.com
- Host a yard sale
- Share about your trip via your social media network
- Design and sell T-shirts

Follow-Up

Following up with each member of your support team is a very important part of raising support. The support team you build wants to know that you are thankful for their support financially and through prayer. Second, they want to hear about your trip and how God changed you through it.

Here are a few things we recommend to help you follow-up with your support team:

- Send a thank you note to every person on your support team thanking them for their support financially or in prayer.
- When you return from your trip – send a letter to every person on your support team.
 - Tell them about your trip
 - Tell them how God changed your life
 - Thank them for their support
 - Maybe even include a few photos from your trip