

ARMONÍA Vision Trip

Thank you for coming to visit us. We look forward to staying in touch and we hope to see you again soon.



CONTACT US: ARMONIAMEXICO@GMAIL.COM

VISIT US ON THE WEB: WWW.ARMONIAMEXICO.NET

When he **saw** the crowds, he **had compassion** on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
~Matthew 9:26 (NIV)

Armonía
together, transforming
poverty into life...

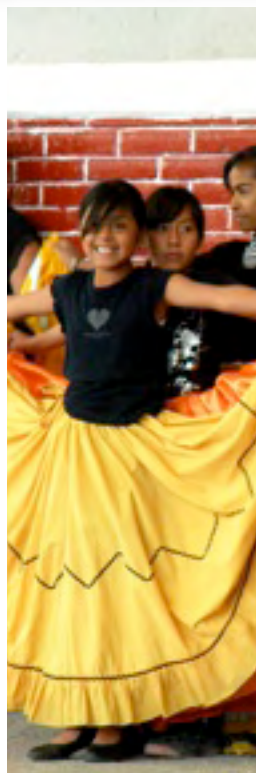


Armonía
together, transforming
poverty into life...



Welcome to Armonía!

Armonía is a Mexican NGO that works alongside some of the country's poorest urban and rural communities. Founded on Christian principles, we seek, together with local community and a growing international network, to work together to transform poverty into abundant life.



In the pages that follow, we hope to introduce you to Armonía, giving you some perspective on what you will be seeing and experiencing.

NOTES

Armonía: years and places

When and where Armonía developed strategic locations

Oaxaca City	1983-85
Mexico City, Observatorio	1987-89
Mexico City, Jalalpa UTC	1988-present
Housing Project	1989-present
Mexico City, Santa Cruz	1994-present
Yalalag RTC, Oaxaca,	1997-2006
Mexico City, Presidentes UTC	2001-present
Hornos Community	2004-present
AIMS, Mexico City	2005-present
AIMS, Oaxaca	2007-present

UTC=Urban Transformation Center

RTC=Rural Transformation Center

NOTES

VISION TRIP Schedule

A longer weekend to see, to feel compassion, and to use your hands to further build the kingdom of God.

Friday

Arrive in Mexico City
Reception with light food in Casablanca

Saturday

Bible Study
Breakfast with AIMS students
Visit Violetas
Visit Hornos
Visit Presidentes CUTC
Visit Jalalpa CUTC
Visit with family
Dinner at Café Tacuba
Return to Casablanca

Sunday

Bible Study
Breakfast
Visit with family
Christian gathering at Santa Cruz CUTC
Travel to Oaxaca
Visit Tule and Oaxaca City
Dinner at Casa Naranja
Visit with AIMS students

Monday

Breakfast and prayer
Visit the school
Visit Pyramids
Lunch at Santa Marta
Visit students' residence
Shopping with AIMS students
Closing reflection with Saul and light dinner

Tuesday

Rise early and depart for airport

*CUTC= Christian Urban Transformation Center

Visiting Armonía

Visiting groups are an essential part of Armonía's ministry.

In our relationships with groups and churches who share service activities with Armonía, we operate under the idea of a "healthy give-and-take". We don't believe that "mission trips" should come, deliver, and then simply leave. The best visits to a community are those which transform all who are involved, beginning a process of creating loving and permanent relationships within the Kingdom of God.



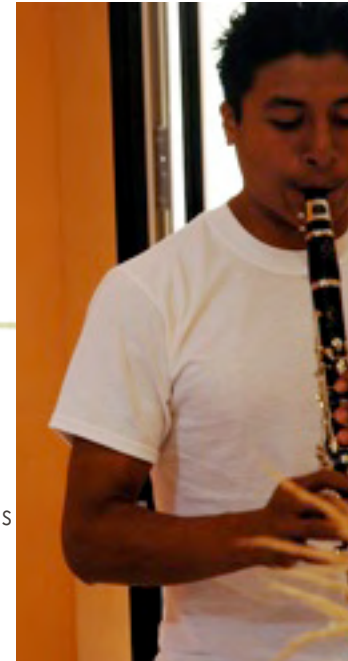
Visiting groups share in the work of Armonía toward these aims:

1. Mobilize local and foreign communities to work together to reconstruct the entire quality of life for the poor.
2. Facilitate and participate in processes where we together with the poor learn to respond as living communities to present and future needs.
3. Defend the rights of the needy and the oppressed, learning together to practice acts of justice in our daily relationships.
4. Reduce the vulnerability of the local communities to the threat of natural disasters and emergencies.

..Transforming Poverty into Life

Current needs

- Transformation Center needs (see wish lists)
- Current students' residence in Oaxaca: well for clean water, bus for transportation, basketball court, gazebo, and community kitchen
- Construction of second student residence construction in Oaxaca
- Alheli expansion
- Scholarships for current and new AIMS students
- Equipping new homes for members of Hornos Community
- Contributions Armonía employee salary increases
- Funds for second Violetas house



Donations

To give in the U.S., please send all donations to:
Armonia U.S., Inc.
114 Satsuma Drive
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

You can also visit Armonía U.S. on the web at www.armoniaus.org

To give in the U.K., please visit Armonia U.K. on the web at www.armonia-uk.org.uk

In both cases, please notify the Armonía Directors at armoniadirector@mac.com

Together with Armonía..

WE ARE ALWAYS EXCITED TO HAVE OTHERS JOIN HANDS WITH US AS WE TOGETHER TRANSFORM POVERTY INTO LIFE.

Ways to Join Armonía:

- Send a group
- Come as a volunteer
- Donate to current needs
- Become a vision partner
- Bring another vision trip
- Pray



Groups and volunteers who visit Armonía on a short-term or long-term basis can participate in several different areas:

- 👉 Serving at Transformation Centers
- 👉 Construction and maintenance
- 👉 Medical Clinics
- 👉 Christmas Celebrations

Join together with Armonía to create possibilities for the poor in the name of Christ.

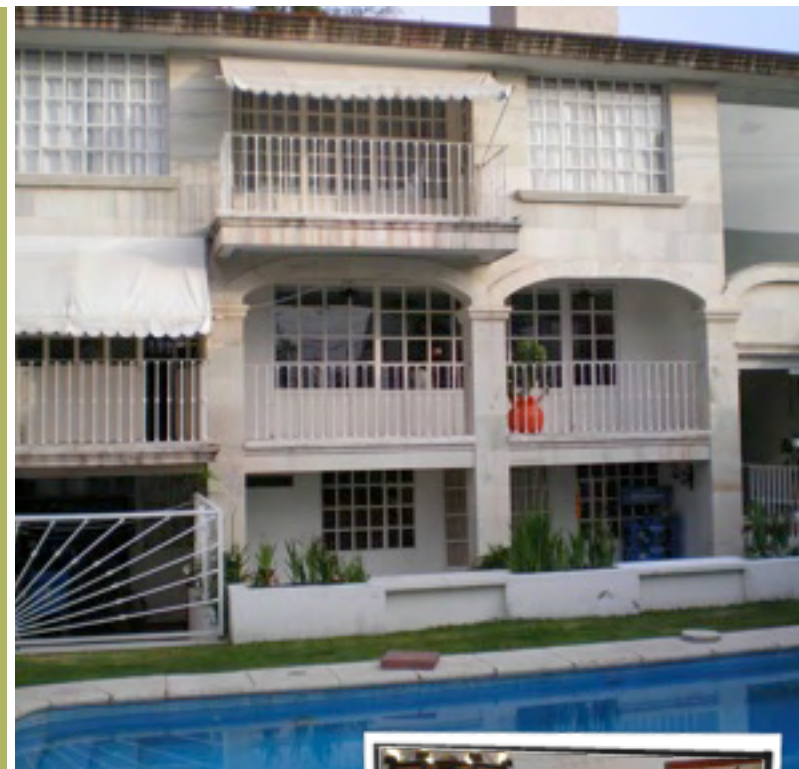
WELCOME TO Casablanca

Casablanca serves three purposes for Armonía:

~A guest house to house visitors like yourselves

~A way to generate donations for Armonía

~A place for meeting and training Armonía workers and local ministries



Enjoy your stay!

NOTES



Christian Urban Transformation Centers

To move into the future...



NOTES

Armonía works together with the poor in three Christian Urban Transformation Centers in Mexico City. These centers are created together by the communities of Armonía to be common spaces for reflection and transformation in the context of relationships.

1. Student Residences: As the AIMS Program expands, Armonía has a vision to build several more student residences in order to house more indigenous students.

2. Visitor Houses: In order to accommodate more visiting groups, Armonía has a vision to either purchase or build more visitor houses.

3. Armonía Virtual: Armonía has a vision to expand our capabilities with technology in order to better connect with our international network. This would include webcasts of major events for others around the world to participate over the web, increased website resources, and more!

4. Institute for Care and Counsel as Mission: In January 2009, the Lausanne Interest Group on Care and Counsel as Mission met at Armonía for a consultation to establish its identity and direction. Armonía hopes to be involved with this group in establishing a roving Institute that will empower local community workers, pastors, churches and counselors with culturally and theologically sensitive research, training, and supervision as they seek to be agents of healing for troubled communities and individuals.

5. Program for Business Development and Resource Generation: Armonía's vision to become more financially independent includes several plans for business development resource generation programs, including building a chocolate factory and restaurant in one of the Transformation Centers.

6. Research Institute for the Study of Local, Integral Transformation: It is Armonía's long-term dream to build a research institute that provides educational opportunities to indigenous and poor students, training them in technical and professional skills with a integral Christian worldview.

7. Identifying new partners to join with us in moving into the future.

Values and Emphases

- 1. The compassion of Jesus:** Armonía seeks to demonstrate the compassion of Jesus to the whole person by proclamation of the gospel, Christian teaching, and Christian service.
- 2. Transformation:** Armonía emphasizes Christ-centered transformation of people, relationships, and institutions with the goal that others would become leader-servants and agents of transformation in their own communities.
- 3. Christian Discipleship:** Armonía emphasizes the need for holistic Christian discipleship, not satisfied with simply taking people to Christian meetings, but walking alongside them in their growth as disciples as the whole gospel bears on their whole lives.
- 4. Action Together:** The transformation of poor communities requires the creation of new relationships in love and trust which allows the collaborative, respectful, and co-responsible action of three groups: (a) The local community members who live in poverty or feel the consequences of it, (b) The members of other Christian communities in different locations who have the abilities to help with the transformation of local groups (c) The team of Armonía staff and volunteers.
- 5. Local and International Networks:** Armonía works with local and international networks to create possibilities for peace and justice and learn to responsibly communicate the gospel together.
- 6. Sustainability:** Armonía is actively working to generate a significant part of its own support.
- 7. Kingdom of God:** As the Bible teaches, Armonía believes the Kingdom of God is breaking into the present, and is therefore committed to deliberate involvement in society, actions of justice, and a mentality of vocation.
- 8. Lifestyle Witness:** It is important to Armonía that its members always conduct themselves in a way that is consistent with their faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, professionalism is required, and Armonía is selective in accepting staff, supporters, visitors, scholarship recipients and volunteers to participate, based on these standards.

Jalalpa and Presidentes Transformation Centers are located in the western slum ravines of Mexico City, where Armonía has been serving for many years. Some of the projects that have transformed the lives of those in the area are the children's club, homework club, nutrition program, summer course, health clinics, meetings with parents and youth, Bible studies, and the weekly Sunday celebration meeting.

Santa Cruz Transformation Center is located on the expanding northern edge of Mexico City. Armonía is seeking to minister to the poor who cannot compete with the growing economy. At Santa Cruz, the community participates in many programs for the children, including homework clubs and summer courses, as well as events for the whole community including medical clinics and a weekly Sunday celebration meeting.



In addition to creating spaces for transformation in centers throughout the city, Armonía walks alongside people when they suffer abuse, social injustice, discrimination, and lack of services.

The Hornos Community



The Hornos Community is made up of dozens of families who were displaced from their homes by the government because these homes had been built on the side of a steep, sandy cliff and were in danger of collapse. For more than a year now, the government has promised to provide these people new apartments, and a few have just recently heard an apartment is ready for them. We praise God for this answer to prayer, but we also realize that most of these families have little money, and they need a small amount in order to settle into their homes and begin to pay for electricity and other needs.

NOTES

The AIMS program is more than monetary support; it is an opportunity for young people to become agents of transformation.



The AIMS university level is far more than monetary support. Armonía provides the students with training in management, strategic thinking, a Christian mind framework, giving them the tools for acting with compassion towards those in need, mainly those from their communities of origin. Combined with an education in their chosen field, and active participation in the strategically located Transformation Centers in Mexico City, each university student commits to three years of service in Armonía or their region of origin after they graduate, allowing this training to become a powerful force for transformation.

NOTES

AIMS

Total Students	31
At University	12
Waiting results	7
Young men	20
Young women	11
Languages spoken	8
Ethnic groups represented	4

AIMS: University Level

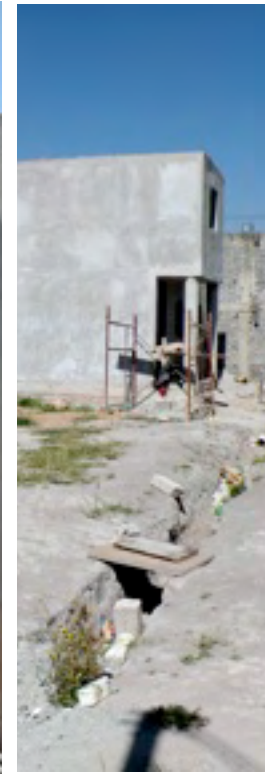


With Oaxaca as the entry point for AIMS, Mexico City is the location where the AIMS program progresses to the university level, although some students may keep studying at university in Oaxaca. This level presents students with the opportunity to be supported through university who otherwise would have no opportunity. Recipients are chosen carefully, with particular attention paid to the student's attitude towards work and study, as well as their financial situation.

Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to hard work and must continue to participate in Armonía's work while they are completing their studies. The students who participate take up residence in Mexico City, where currently the university students are divided between two student residences, one called Alhelí in the northern part of Mexico City, and the other at Presidentes, in the heart of the city.

Many members in the Armonía Christian Urban Transformation Centers and even the leaders of the communities where they are located live in extremely difficult and destitute conditions. Not only that, but many of the community leaders live a great distance from these Transformation Centers, which is an extra drain on their time, money and energy. Faced with this situation, Armonía has realized their opportunity and duty to help these families to improve their living conditions. Armonía is in the process of building houses for these community members on a piece of land that Armonía purchased several years ago, not far from the Santa Cruz transformation center.

Violetas



It's not just an opportunity to build yourself a house.
It's an opportunity to build a yourself a whole new life.

AIMS: Entry Level

Armonía Indigenous Mexican Scholars



An Exciting Possibility in a Grim Situation:

- Bright young students are isolated in rural Mexico and hindered by social injustice and lack of educational opportunities.
- When frustrated, they are prone to become illegal migrants in the US or to join lawless groups.
- Armonía creates possibilities by forming caring Christian communities and empowering them to realize their potential, achieving a good education and becoming agents of transformation for God's glory.

Creating Possibilities

The entry point for the AIMS program is Oaxaca. In the 570 municipalities surrounding Oaxaca City (pronounced "wa-HA-ka"), young, indigenous students have extremely limited opportunities and must move away from their villages to the city if they want to pursue education beyond the elementary level. The logistics and cost of traveling to Oaxaca City to live and study require most of these students to seek employment in addition to studying. Most find themselves in difficult circumstances and many do not end up finishing school. Their lack of opportunities is weakening the local work force and threatening the sustainability of their villages.

Armonía's AIMS program was started to address this situation. Armonía runs a student residence in Oaxaca City, which houses students from different tribal (and language) groups as they attend 'Prepa' (high school equivalent). Hard working students with a good attitude are selected and admitted into the program. These students are expected to prove themselves in both academic and other work, juggling studying with cooking, cleaning, carpentry and other household jobs.

Construction of the new students' residence is almost complete.



The students are looked after on a day-to-day basis by several 'older siblings' who have already completed their 'Prepa' and have committed a year of their time to the residence before graduating to the university scholarship scheme. Mexican Christians consider Jesus their 'older brother,' and so these older siblings are encouraged to emulate Jesus' servant attitude as they serve their younger siblings. As the students live together in the residence, they also receive training in service and leadership and participate in regular Bible studies, which ensures that these students leave the residence ready to serve others, having experienced holistic transformation.