

MIKE HAPNER

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, MEXICO



God has been working in my life to get me to the place that I am today, getting ready to move to Mexico to serve Him there full time! Read on for the full story.

HOW DID I GET HERE?



While I didn't see it as it was happening and honestly didn't even like some of it, I'm so blessed to have a loving Father who knows what's best. In 2019, I started attending Village Bible Church in Aurora. I started serving in the children's ministry and that eventually led to helping with the midweek children's program, Pueblito. That was my introduction to the Spanish campus El Camino. During a summer soccer camp, Pastor Nico struck up a conversation with me and soon after, I started attending the Spanish-speaking service. Every year, Village Bible has short-term mission trips, and in 2023, Piedras Negras, Mexico was an option. It had been several years since I had been on a mission trip, so I decided to go. It was great; it was different. We did some construction projects and were able to work with immigrants traveling through to America.

WHY PIEDRAS NEGRAS?

The following summer of 2024, when just a small group went back to put on an English camp, I had the thought of staying for longer than a week. That thought was quickly met with all the reasons why I couldn't. When I returned to work the week after I got back, I had a strong dislike for my job, which I had always liked, and just had a dissatisfaction with life. I started praying and asking God, "What is next?" while also praying, "Change me. Change my heart to what You want." I kept working and made plans to go back on spring break 2025 to help whatever group was there with whatever they were doing. I just wanted to be there! The first Monday morning after I returned home was when I knew that I was going to go back for longer. I was reading Psalm 37, and it says to "delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." God has given me a heart to serve, and I love helping people. While the gifts God has given me can be used anywhere, they will be in Piedras Negras, Mexico, for 2026.



HOW WILL I BE SERVING?

I will be serving alongside a great team from Crossroads Missions already there in sharing the love of Jesus and the gospel. I will be doing routine maintenance on the Crossroads vehicles, possibly teaching English, helping with construction projects, and other service projects. There may be other ways God wants to use me, but I won't know until I'm there. I have a goal of raising \$1,800 in monthly support. I would love your prayer and support as I take this step of faith. If you have any questions or would like to talk, let me know. To God be the glory.

- MIKE HAPNER



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