



THANK YOU!

I want to send a big thank you to everyone who helped us make our budget for the 2019 fiscal year. Not only did we make our budget, we were \$503 over, so I was able to give all of the Merge trip facilitators a teeny bit extra for their work last year.

THANK YOU!!!

This year was going to be a record year for Merge. We had signed up 65 teams to participate on trips with us. We never had more than 60 teams in any one year, so we were super excited going into 2020.

Well ... we all know what happened. Who knows how many trips we will end up having in 2020? We were able to get seven trips in before the virus really hit. I think all of the rest might be postponed until 2021 or 2022.

MERGE 22

(Coming in 2022)

- New website.
- Online registration and payment.
- New training manual and in-person training for teams.

- New social media team to update everyone about Merge on multiple platforms.
- Improving video options for marketing Merge and training.
- Training for Merge staff in 2021.
- Vision Trips (giving youth pastors a vision for what a healthy learn-and-serve trips would be like for their youth groups)

MERGE & Covenant World Relief Partner Together

Due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of most Merge teams in 2020, many of the Merge staff have been suffering economic difficulties. A partnership between Covenant World Relief, Serve Globally and Merge has led to grants being sent to the following staff to help them through these difficult economic times.

Click on the links below to see their interviews. And, go to [Merge Facebook Page](#) to see all the Merge Talk videos with staff and find out how COVID-19 has affected their lives and their communities.

Esther Moreira - Ecuador

Esther's home city of Guayaquil was hit hard by the Coronavirus. Bodies were left in the streets in her neighborhood. Esther came down with Dengue fever and later has had more health issues. Pray for wisdom. For the security of Ecuador and the return of groups to Ecuador.

Julio Garcia - Peru

In lockdown with his 80-year-old mother in a small apartment with no income, since his restaurant job is closed. Pray for a job, his health and the health for his mother.

Evelina Pineyro - Argentina

Ran out of food and needed to borrow money to purchase food for herself, her sister and nephew and her parents. Pray for her and her family, her finances and

for her dad's church that he leads.

Daniela de la Rosa - Mexico City

In order to keep her vulnerable elderly parents inside, Daniela and her husband Abram ran the family outdoor restaurant until it became too unsafe. Pray for her parents' health and for her and her husband's health.

Covenant World Relief with Serve Globally has also donated funds to various Merge partners around the world to help with critical assistance due to COVID-19 including:

- **Zimbabwe** - feeding of starving villagers in the Gweru area through our South African partners Awake Grace Ministries
- **Guatemala** - food packets given out to villagers in Cojulya, through the Central American church of Santa Apolonia
- **Mexico** - support for women and children in the program Corozones Valientes, a program for women from rural areas selling good on Mexico City streets
- **Peru** - support for a program called Casa de Valientes, a program for HIV positive women and children in Piura
- **Mexico** - feeding program for immigrants living in San Luis Rio Colorado through a ministry called Mision de Caridad

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