



# New Mexico United Year-End Report 2021

Prepared for: Soccer Chaplains United  
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Period Covered: January 2021 to December 2021

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## SUMMARY

2021 was a year full of restarts. Kids back in schools, workers back in the office, and NM United back in their house, filling up seats, screaming their heads off. NM fans came out to support the club, and players were able to relax a bit from the 2020 season of “the bubble.” It was a pleasure to be able to attend team trainings again as the chaplain, and really great to connect with players on a personal level to help in a variety of ways.

### February/March

- With the season kicking off late this year, I wasn’t able to introduce myself formally to the new players and staff until April.
- I was however able to maintain known contacts with players and make a couple of new contacts through other chaplains from other clubs via player transfers. This included welcoming them to NM and offering help in any way needed.

### April

- Introduced myself formally to the team as chaplain April 26<sup>th</sup> at team training. Also introduced Jordan Rivera (ministry resident) as my volunteer assistant. Jordan’s heritage from Ecuador and fluency in Spanish allows him to relate to specific players on a deeper level than I am able.

### May – September

- Maintained weekly/monthly phone and in person contact with a number of players to check in personally. Attended training every three weeks on avg, stayed around at café for connection after.
- Brought Electrolyte Ice pops to several trainings during hottest months.
- Checked in regularly with individuals for any unique emotional, spiritual, or relational needs.
- Maintained consistent communication with Head Coach via text during milestones for the team.
- Checked in on injured/sick players and those working on rehab for encouragement/prayer as needed.

### October

- End of season, met one on one with several players in person for lunch or coffee to debrief their season and next chapter of career and their emotional/spiritual perspective on it.

### November-December

- Meeting ongoingly with one player for personal spiritual counsel.
- Congratulated players who resigned, encouraged those moving on, congratulated those staying here.

### New Initiatives for 2021

- Ice pops for hottest summer days. Refreshing electrolytes and morale boost.

### Hopes/Intentions for 2022

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- More regular one to one coffees for counsel/sounding board for players I know and those I don't know as well. I want as many players as possible to feel comfortable sharing life and any trials or troubles they face and to see me as a caring resource to support them.