

# Go Missions To Mexico

## Mission Trip Leader Manual

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## Welcome & Important Message to Mission Trip Leaders

You are an answer to prayer and the key to the success of what God desires to do through your group in Mexico. We are deeply grateful for your willingness to serve God in this special way. Be prepared to be deeply challenged and blessed. God has raised you up as the leader of your group, and therefore, you play the most important role! Remember to have a Christ-like attitude and be a good example for all to follow. Be excited about the trip and let your enthusiasm overflow to others. God has positioned you in a place to be greatly used by Him. It could very well be possible that what you do over the next months could be the most important work you'll do this year. God, for some reason, has chosen to greatly touch Americans while they're in Mexico, and also the lives of the Mexicans through your ministry as Americans. It's a win, win, situation. Your group will be able to hear and see things that they're unable to hear and see in the states. Be prepared to see God greatly work in your group's lives. Enjoy it, pray for it, and do your part in allowing God to get as many down to Mexico as possible.

In order to be a successful mission trip leader, it is imperative that you acquaint yourself with each section of the Leader's Manual. Whether you're a veteran with us or a newcomer, please read each section carefully. So, grab a cup of coffee or tea, find a comfortable chair, and read over this manual carefully. The time you invest here will save you a lot of time and headaches later.

This manual is also found in a more detailed form under the "Mission Prep Section" of the website. You might want to consult it as well as it has videos and more detailed info to help you in the planning process.

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# Chapter 1 - Getting Started: First Things First!

## How to Plan & Organize Your Mission Trip

Following is a very helpful guide that will walk you through the necessary steps for planning and organizing your mission trip.

### 1. Spread the Word about Your Mission Trip as Soon As Possible

**Use the Following Resources** - Below are some great resources for getting the word out and promoting your trip.

#### Promo Videos

- [Promo Videos](#)

**Promo Brochures & Flyers in Non-editable Format** - Ready made, just print off and hand out!

- [Brochures](#) - Ready made Tri-fold pdf. File format
- [Flyers](#) - Ready made Flyer in pdf. file format)

**Promo Brochures & Flyers in Editable Format** - Ready made in Microsoft Word and can be changed or just printed off and handed out!

- [Brochures](#) - Ready made Tri-fold version in Word.doc editable format
- [Flyers](#) - Ready made Flyer in Word.doc editable format

**Talk with Your Pastor** - Ask his blessing and help in promoting your mission trip. Ask him if he would promote and talk about the trip from the pulpit.

**Put Announcements in Your Church Bulletin** - Announce it up front, promote it from the pulpit, call people, talk to people; ask for stories of people who have already gone on a short-term mission trip, do a skit, do whatever you can to get the word out.

**Use our Promo Videos to Raise Interest and Enthusiasm** - Click for [Promo Videos](#)

**Put a Sign-up Sheet in the Lobby of Your Church** - Put out a nice, attractive, sign-up sheet in a well-known spot and encourage people to sign up if they're interested in going. Your first step is to throw wide the net and gather all who have any interest.

**Put Together an Information Trip Packet** - Along with the sign-up sheet, if you have the capability, put together a mission trip packet that answers as many questions as you can think of. This will provide information before your information meeting to better inform those interested.

**Set a Date for an Information Meeting** - About one month after you have started promoting the trip, have an information meeting to inform those interested and to answer everyone's questions. Some issues to cover would be; finances, food prep, VBS prep, trip schedule, meeting schedule for trip planning, etc.

**Announce the Procedure for Group Registration** - As part of your meeting, let those at the information meeting know how to get on board. It works well to set a \$25.00 or more non-refundable registration fee for group registration. For some reason, money firms up decisions.

**Establish the Total Mission Trip Price** - Take into consideration travel, insurance, food, and other costs. Take into account the three following factors in planning your trip that needs to be decided that will affect your trip cost:

- 1. Food costs** - We provide an option (highly recommended) to groups of eating the Sunday evening meal and the noon meals at the church you will be serving at, prepared and served by the women of the church (Monday-Thursday). This is a wonderful way to save time, money, and get to know the people and culture of Mexico. It's a popular hit among all groups and only costs \$4.00 per person per meal for this option. This amount also includes enough money so the Mexicans who are ministering with you can eat with you as well. [Click for more](#)
- 2. Work projects** - No need to worry about this, we will provide the building materials for you out of your group fees. We also have most tools you'll need too. However, if you want to do a major construction project, you will need to raise additional funds. [Click for more](#)

**3. Ministry costs** - You will have some costs for Bibles, tracts and Vacation Bible School supplies that you will want to take into consideration. [Click for more](#)

**4. Mission Base Items Needed** - In order to keep costs as low as possible, we allow mission teams to bring some of the needed items for their stay on the mission base. [Click for more](#)

## **2. Establish Your Mission Team Group**

**Set Up Your Meeting Schedule for Group Preparation & Training** - You will normally need a minimum of about 6-8 meetings to allow adequate time for V.B.S and ministry prep. Don't forget your spiritual prep (the most important of all). We provide some helpful info for this on the [Mission Prep Section](#) of the website and also provide some helpful links to Mission Trip Training Books. [Click for more](#)

**Set Up Money Due Dates** - Set up a schedule for Team Members that lets them know when their funds are due for your mission trip.

## **3. Establish Your Mission Trip Prep Meetings & Schedule**

Here are some items you might want to consider in your mission trip prep meetings:

**Fund Raising Help and Ideas for Team Members** - An important part of making your mission trip happen is fundraising. Here are two links on our website that provide help in this area: [Sample Fundraising Letter](#) [Fundraising Ideas](#)

**Vacation Bible School Prep** - You will be doing a total of five V.B.S.'s during your week in Mexico. Your V.B.S. crafts and snacks will need to be packaged in groups of ten, and each put in one larger bag. This is a very important detail that if not followed can cause us big problems during the V.B.S. time as we will be dividing the children at the V.B.S. in groups of ten in order to maintain control. This is the best way we have found to maintain crowd control. Also, if you can bring some sports items for the playtime during V.B.S. it would be helpful. [Click for more on Vacation Bible School help](#)

**Church/Community Outreaches Prep** - Unless other plans have been made, you'll be doing two Community Outreaches. [Click for more](#)

**Testimony Prep** - Your team will be doing a total of around 16 testimonies. We have great help for how to share your testimonies on our website. [Click for more](#)

**Meal Prep** - An option to consider if you don't have a cook, is to designate a kitchen and meal coordinator to oversee the meals and kitchen. Divide the group into food teams and allow them to plan the meals (with the oversight of the kitchen and meal coordinator). Some meals can be pre-cooked in the States and then prepared in Mexico. Make sure you have healthy meals as you will be exerting extra energy while on your trip. Take into consideration the option of eating the noon meal at the church you will be serving at. This will cut down on the amount of meals to prepare. Also, many groups like to eat out at least once during the week. [More on meal help](#)

**Mission Base Prep for Your Stay in Mexico** - We offer some great ways to get ready for your stay on the Mission Base. [Click for more](#)

**Spiritual Prep** - Don't neglect this important area. Without right hearts, we have nothing to offer. One of the great benefits of a mission trip like this is that you have a wonderful platform for discipleship training. You can go to the coordinator's page for helpful info in this area. The trip can serve a much larger purpose than the week while in Mexico; try to get as much mileage out of your discipleship training time as possible and think of ways to disciple and use the group or individuals upon returning home.

**Paperwork Prep** - It's good to start early if some don't have Passports. It can take up to a couple months to get them so let your team know up from so they can get started on them. Passports are now required (with some exceptions) for re-entry into the U.S. Adults (17 and older) need a Passport for re-entry into the U.S. Minors 16 and younger will need a Passport or an original Birth-Certificate (Passports are best) and photo ID for re-entry into the U.S. [More on passports, etc.](#)

**Training Prep** - Don't forget you're going to be ministering cross-culturally and you need to prepare your team for this. We offer many tools for doing this. Also, we have some links on our website for using Study Books for this as well. [Training Material](#)

**Alleviating Safety Concerns** - It's common for folks to be concerned with all the media attention on Mexico. From a purely factual and statistical point of view, it's safer than it's ever been. We have help for safety issues to hand out to parents or concerned folks. [Click for more](#)

**Parent Section** - We have a Parent Section on the Website for helping parents support and understand their student's mission trip. [Click for more](#)

**Order Bibles & Tracts for Ministry** - See more below

## 4. One Month Before Trip Departure

**Pay One-Half of Mission Trip Fees** - Mission trip payment due one month before trip departure and needs to be sent to the address below. This payment can be made by credit card (via PayPal) or by PayPal, or by check sent to our stateside office. [Click here to pay mission trip fees](#)

**Double check the Master Checklist** - Make sure you've covered all your bases and nothing is forgotten. [Click for Master Checklist](#)

**Order Bibles and Tracts** - If not already done yet, make sure to order Bibles and Tracts for your ministries. [Click here for more on ordering Bibles and tracks](#)

## 5. Final Departure Plans

**Paperwork for Go Missions to Mexico** - Bring the following paperwork and give it to us in Mexico:

Payment Form for funds to be brought to Mexico with you for purchasing materials for your work projects

Please remember that we'll need you bring 1/2 of Mission Trip Fees in the form of U.S. Dollars (Cash) for purchasing your building materials, etc. for your work projects. [More on paying mission trip fees](#)

**Paperwork for Your Own Purposes**

**Passports.** [More on Passport Info](#)

Important note: We recommend that all paperwork be kept in a briefcase, etc. in possession of the leader while traveling. Teens can easily lose their paperwork.

**Driving Directions** - It would be an excellent idea to print off the following driving directions for all your drivers:

[Go Missions to Mexico's Mission Base](#)

[Returning to U.S. Via Tijuana](#)

[Returning to U.S. Via Tecate](#)

**Review the Master Checklist** - To be sure you've remembered everything. [Click for Master Checklist](#)

## 6. Addition Items to Address

**Daily Devotionals** - During the week while in Mexico, we encourage you to have group devotions each day. We as the site missionaries will do a Cultural & Ministry Orientation meeting Sunday morning, and a Farewell Meeting on Thursday evening. You will be responsible to do the group devotionals Monday - Thursday. Your group will be in charge of your own music and teaching for your daily devotions. [Click for more](#)

**Traveling in Mexico** - Traveling in Mexico carries no more inherent risk than in the U.S. A custom that is used in Mexico which is helpful, and at the same time confusing, is the way they use their left blinkers. If you are on an open stretch of highway, and following a slow vehicle, they will often put on their left turn signal. This tells you that no one is coming and you can pass them. (But be careful here, they might actually be going to turn left!) A valid driver's license from the U.S. is valid in Mexico. While serious crime is low in Mexico, thievery does exist so leave your valuables locked up, or out of sight.

**Group tee-shirts** - If you would like, you can design your own tee-shirts for your mission trip. This can be very valuable and acts as a great keepsake and reminder of God's work in each person's life.

**Entering Mexico** - When entering, or at different checkpoints, you might be asked some questions. It's possible they might ask you what your purpose is in Mexico. Tell them that you're coming as a tourist. Mexico has no real law for handling mission groups so it's best to come under their recognized category of tourist. [Click for more on tourist cards](#)

**Sleeping Bag & Pillow** - The bunk beds have wood bottoms and foam cushions, however, each person will need their own sleeping bag and pillow. [More on sleeping accommodations](#)

**Clothes for the Beach** - We have lovely close-by beaches that you'll certainly want to take advantage of while here. Please bring modest swim suits for this. [Click here for more on our beaches](#)

**Vehicle Insurance** - Although vehicle insurance is not required in Mexico, you might want to have it just in case. We strongly recommend that you purchase insurance before your trip. Purchasing insurance at the border can be costly and time-consuming. [More on Auto Insurance help](#)

## 7. Use the Master Checklist to Make Sure You Have Everything Ready for Your Mission Trip. [Click for Master Checklist](#)

### Miscellaneous Costs to Consider

#### Making Your Mission Trip More Affordable

In order to keep mission fees as affordable as possible, we allow teams to purchase some of their own items needed for their stay at the Mission Base and for their ministries.

Our hope is that while you're on the ministry base with us in Mexico, you feel at home. Our mindset is that "Mi casa es tu casa" (My house is your house). We don't operate like a hotel service; we basically loan you the base during your time here. The following items will save you money if you buy them instead of us providing them.

Taking this in mind, here are some additional items to consider for your mission trip.

#### Food

In order to make your trip as affordable as possible, we allow groups to take care of some of their own meals (we provide large, furnished kitchens with all the cooking utensils you'll need for this). Food is not covered in your cost. [For more on food click here](#)

**Meal prep can be very easy if you consider the following options:**

- Some mission teams have each person bring their favorite box of cold cereal for the week in Mexico. Milk and fruit can be brought with you, or purchased here in Mexico. This provides a quick, healthy breakfast with little costs or work.
- We provide an option (highly recommended) to groups of eating the Sunday evening meal and the noon meals (Monday-Thursday) at the church where you'll be serving. These meals are prepared and served by the women of the church. This is a wonderful way to save time, money, and get to know the people and culture of Mexico. It's a popular hit among all groups (you will be hard pressed to buy and cook a meal for less than the fee, and the cost even covers the meals so all the Mexicans who will be serving with you can eat with you as well). A charge \$4.00 per person per meal for this option, please. And once again, this amount also includes enough money so the Mexicans who are ministering with you can eat with you as well.

- The remainder of the meals can be prepared at the base, or you can eat out at some local taco stands. The facilities are very accommodating (two stoves, refrigerator, freezer, large work areas, large serving bar & more). An option to consider if you don't have a cook is to designate a kitchen and meal coordinator to oversee the meals and kitchen. Divide the group into food teams and allow them to plan the meals (with the oversight of the kitchen and meal coordinator). Meals can be pre-cooked in the States and then prepared in Mexico. Make sure you have healthy meals as you will be exerting extra energy while on your trip. Also, you can eat out at local taco stands if you'd like which cuts down on meal prep too.
- It is best to purchase main items in the States before crossing the border (costs are less and selection is better). Following is a recommended shopping center close to the border.  
<http://www.gomissionstomexico.com/food4lessshopping.html>. Items like fruit, bread, and milk can be purchased locally if you wish.

### **Items for Meals at the Mission Base**

- Napkins
- Paper plates (we recommend using paper plates, bowls, cups, etc. for eating, this cuts down on work & time)
- Paper bowls
- Paper cups
- Plastic eating utensils

### **Misc. Items**

- Small bathroom trash bags (10 gallon)
- Large trash bags (40 gallon)
- Paper towels for kitchen and bathrooms
- Baby wipes for cleaning hands after V.B.S., etc. (put in vans)

### **First Aid Kit & Medicines**

To carry with you. We have first aid kits at the ministry base for use as well.

- Neosporin
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Tylenol
- Imodium AD
- Sun block

## Purified Drinking Water in Mexico

We will have at the Ministry Base 5-gallon bottles of purified drinking water for your use. These bottles can be filled with purified water at all grocery stores for less than \$1.00 each. It will be your group's responsibility to purchase your own water. There is no need to bring purified water with you unless you would feel more comfortable doing so.

## Work Projects

Part of group fees will be used for your construction projects, however, if your group wants to do a major construction project, we ask that you raise additional funds for this. [Click for more on work projects](#)

## Vehicle Insurance

Although vehicle insurance is not required in Mexico, you might want to have it just in case. We strongly recommend that you purchase insurance before your trip. Purchasing insurance at the border can be costly and time-consuming. [Click for more on auto insurance](#)

## Bibles

Please bring complete Bibles containing both the Old and New Testaments. (1 case of Bibles for mission teams of 20 or less). These can be ordered from Amazon. [Link to order Bibles](#)

## Evangelistic Tracts

On Sunday, the day after your arrival, we start the week off by doing an evangelistic outreach in the community of the church you'll be serving at. We hand out invitations for the week's activities at the church, and tracts as well. We ask that you bring at least 1000 tracts for this important activity. We have many free tracts from our ministry you can print. Some of the tracts are in a cartoon format. Because many here in Mexico lack the ability to read, a cartoon format really grabs and holds their attention. Make sure you order all tracts in Spanish!

**1000 Spanish Bible Tracts** (500 total tracts for mission teams of 20 or less)

- **500 Go Missions to Mexico Spanish Evangelism Tracts** (250 for teams of 20 or less). Free tracts you can print and bring with you. These tracts will be used for your door to door evangelism ministries.

We also have the English version of the Spanish tracts you can print if you'd

like to have some for your own use and be able to follow along with those sharing in Spanish.

[Click for Spanish and English tracts](#)

- **500 Other Spanish Bible Tracts from the following options** (250 for teams of 20 or less):

- ✚ **Free “Print Your Own” Tracts** - These are nicely done tri-fold tracts you can print yourself. [Click to print tracts](#)
- ✚ **Fellowship Tract League** - This website offers free tracts (donations are welcome and appropriate) [FellowshipTractLeague.org/spanish.html](http://FellowshipTractLeague.org/spanish.html)
- ✚ **Chick Publications** - Tel: 1-909-941-8128, [www.chick.com](http://www.chick.com), one of the more popular tracts are, "Esta fue tu vida, This was your life."
- ✚ **Crossway Publishers** - [www.atstracts.org](http://www.atstracts.org) (Go to "Catagory" on the left side of their page, then select "Spanish"). It is best to order a variety of different tracks. Here are a few we recommend: "Y ... Entonces Que" (And now what), "Iré al Cielo" (Will I Go to Heaven?), "4 Verdades Que Dios Quiere Que Sepas" (4 Truths God Wants you to Know)
- ✚ **Matthias Media** - Two Ways to Live: URL: <http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au/two-ways-to-live-spanish>

Make sure you order all Tracts in Spanish and preferably with a cartoon format.

## VBS Snacks & Crafts

We will need you to bring some crafts and snacks for your children's ministries. We provide the VBS program, and all the media and equipment necessary, but we'll need you to cover the crafts and snacks. [Click here for more](#)

## Pastor Offering

We'll give you the option of giving the pastor of the church you'll be serving at an offering at the end of the week. This is voluntary, but recommended because most pastors have to work in Mexico to get by. Because your pastor will be with you most of the week he won't be able to do his regular job to provide a living for himself and his household. A suggested offering amount would be between \$150–\$250 Dollars. This offering can be taken up while in Mexico giving all your team members a chance to participate.

## Fund-Raising Ideas

We have on the website a page that has a lot of fundraising ideas and even a sample fund-raising letter. This page will be of great assistance in helping your mission trip members raise needed funds for their mission trip. [Click for fundraising page](#)

## Chapter 2 - Registration & Mission Trip Fees

### How to Register Your Mission Team

We offer mission trips year around. However, please contact us first to check on mission trip date availability.

#### How to register & confirm your mission team spot

1. **Fill out the Online Electronic Registration Form Field on the Registration Page of our Website.**

Then click the "Submit Button" at the bottom, and we'll receive your Online Electronic Registration Form electronically. [Click for Registration Page](#)

2. **Pay your Registration Fee of \$250**

We provide two easy ways to pay your registration fee:

Option One: Send in your Team Registration fee of \$250 (non-refundable & separate fee from mission trip fees)

Option Two: Pay your Registration Fee via PayPal or pay using credit card (opens to PayPal from which to pay by credit card). [Click for Registration Page](#)

Financial confirmations are due two weeks from the time of submitting the Online Registration Form located on the lower part of this page.

**Note:** For your convenience, the \$250 Registration Fee is the only funds due until one month before your mission trip dates.

For info on paying the balance of your Mission Trip Fees, please click this link: [About Mission Trip Fees](#)

### How to Pay Mission Trip Fees

#### Our Goal Regarding Mission Trip Fees

To keep fees as low as possible, so no one is hindered from going on a mission trip, and to make payment of fees as simple as possible for your convenience!

## **We Make Paying Mission Trip Fees Simple and Easy**

We operate on a "Good Faith" basis and don't ask for numerous deposits and payments throughout the year. We just ask for a Registration Fee to hold your spot and then allow you to pay your mission trip fees when you get close to departure. This makes it easy on you and alleviates a complicated payment process throughout the year.

Because we operate on a "Good Faith" basis, we ask that you follow through with your commitment with your mission trip as cancellations leave us with empty spots in our calendar that means lost ministry for our Lord.

## **What Mission Trip Fees Cover**

One of the unique factors that separates "Go Missions to Mexico" from other mission organizations is that we use about a third of a mission team's fees for the building materials used for their work projects. As a result, mission teams who serve with us truly make a huge difference in helping a needy church with their facilities & ministries. Most other mission organizations charge extra for this in addition to mission trip fees.

### **Items covered by fees:**

- Construction materials for work projects
- Tools for work projects
- Lodging (large meeting rooms, dining halls, bathrooms, showers, play area, campfire pit, and more)
- Large, furnished kitchens for preparing meals
- Access to private beachfront property
- Vacation Bible School Program
- Media equipment
- Ministry items for your ministries (puppets, puppet show scripts and setup, boom boxes, video projector & screen, evangelistic movies, Vacation Bible School Story videos), and more!
- Coordination of all ministries and work projects! We'll have everything ready when you arrive so you can focus on ministry!
- Our on-site assistance to guide and help you each step of the way! We'll accompany and assist you throughout your time in Mexico!

- We do this all for a very low cost! We don't want anyone to be hindered by costs as we know what God can do in, and through, the lives of mission team members. We are missionaries as a result of bringing mission teams to Mexico and seeing how God can use them.

**Fees for teams of 20 or more** (not including pre-school)

- Adults/Teens (ages 13 & up) \$250 per person
- Children (ages 6–12) \$225 per person
- Pre-school (ages 0–5) Free

**Fees for teams of 19-15** (not including pre-school)

- Adults/Teens (ages 13 & up) \$275 per person
- Children (ages 6–12) \$250 per person
- Pre-school (ages 0–5) Free

**Fees for teams of 14-10** (not including pre-school)

- Adults/Teens (ages 13 & up) \$300 per person
- Children (ages 6–12) \$275 per person
- Pre-school (ages 0–5) Free

**Note:** Unfortunately, we are only able to accommodate mission teams with at least 10 people (not counting Pre-school). Because mission teams serving with our ministry carry out various ministries like Vacation Bible Schools, Home Visitation, Community Outreaches, Building Projects for needy churches, etc., smaller teams don't provide enough people or finances to carry these out. We do, however, provide excellent resources for making your team larger and easy payment of fees for your convenience.

**How to Pay Mission Trip Fees**

**1. One month before your mission trip departure, please pay 1/2 of your mission trip fees based on the size of your mission team (please see pricing chart above).**

- **Option One:** Send one-half of your mission trip fees to our stateside address.
  - **Option Two:** Pay one-half of your mission trip fees via PayPal or Credit Card (paying by credit card opens up in PayPal from which you can pay by credit card). **Note: Please add an addition 3% to your fees to cover extra charges incurred to us by paying via credit card or PayPal.** [Click for more](#)

## 2. Balance of Mission Trip Fees are due upon your arrival in Mexico

Please bring the remaining 1/2 of your Mission Trip Fees with you to Mexico in the form of U.S. Dollars (cash) (To be used for purchasing materials for your team's work projects). [Click here for why we ask part of your fees to be brought in dollars](#)

- You'll also need to bring funds in cash to pay for various other items like these:
  1. Meals eaten at your specially chosen church (try to bring smaller bills for this, i.e. \$20 bills)
  2. Gas money for your own transportation (if you plan on putting gas in your vehicles in Mexico)
  3. Souvenir money (for your own use)
  4. Food money (for your own use)

[Click to pay mission trip fees](#)

## Chapter 3 - Promoting Your Mission Trip: Let Others Know!

**Start Spreading the Word As Soon As possible.**

- **Use the Above Resources** - Above are some great resources for getting the word out and promoting your trip. Be sure to use them.
- **Talk with Your Pastor** - Ask his blessing and help in promoting your mission trip. Ask him if he would promote and talk about the trip from the pulpit.
- **Put Announcements in Your Church Bulletin** - Announce it up front, promote it from the pulpit, call people, talk to people; ask for stories of people who have already gone on a short-term mission trip, do a skit, do whatever you can to get the word out.
- **Use our Promo Videos to Raise Interest and Enthusiasm** - Click for [Promo Videos](#)
- **Put a Sign-up Sheet in the Lobby of Your Church** - Put out a nice, attractive, sign-up sheet in a well-known spot and encourage people to sign up if they're interested in going. Your first step is to throw wide the net and gather all who have any interest.
- **Put Together an Information Trip Packet** - Along with the sign-up sheet, if you have the capability, put together a mission trip packet that answers as many questions as you can think of. This will provide information before your information meeting to better inform those interested.
- **Promo Tools** - There are some very important promotion tools we have on our website that will play a vital key in promoting your trip. Here they are:
  - [Promo Internet Videos](#)
  - [Promotional Brochures & Flyers](#)
  - [Mission Trip Promotion & Planner Guide](#)

## Chapter 4 - Planning for Your Ministries: *Get Ready to Serve!*

In order to make your Ministry Outreaches as successful as possible, following are some items we ask you bring. Let us know if this presents a problem for you.

### Items Needed for Your Ministries

- **Vacation Bible School Crafts and Snacks** - (5 V.B.S.'s @ 100 per V.B.S. packaged in bags of ten each) [Click for more on VBS Outreaches](#)
- **Two cases of complete Bibles in Spanish** (1 case of Bibles for mission teams of 20 or less). These can be ordered from Amazon. [Link to order Bibles](#)

This is a new version of the Bible called the NBLH (Nueva Biblia Latinoamerica de Hoy) which is equivalent to the NASB in English (New American Standard Bible) that our ministry prefers.

- **1000 Spanish Bible Tracks** (500 total tracts for mission teams of 20 or less)
- **500 Go Missions to Mexico Spanish Evangelism Tracts** (250 for teams of 20 or less). Free tracts you can print and bring with you. These tracts will be used for your door to door evangelism ministries. [Click here for free tracts](#)
  - ✚ Following are the English version of the Spanish tracts you can print if you'd like to have some for your own use and be able to follow along with those sharing in Spanish. [Click here for English version](#)
- **500 Other Spanish Bible Tracts from the following options** (250 for teams of 20 or less):
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  - ✚ **Chick Publications** - Tel: 1-909-941-8128, [www.chick.com](http://www.chick.com), one of the more popular tracts are, "Esta fue tu vida, This was your life."
  - ✚ **Crossway Publishers** - [www.atstracts.org](http://www.atstracts.org) (Go to "Category" on the left side of their page, then select "Spanish"). It is best to order a variety of different tracks. Here are a few we recommend: "Y ... Entonces Que" (And now what),

"Iré al Cielo" (Will I Go to Heaven?), "4 Verdades Que Dios Quiere Que Sepas" (4 Truths God Wants you to Know)

✚ **Matthias Media** - Two Ways to Live: URL:

<http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au/two-ways-to-live-spanish>

- **Testimonies** - A total of 16 testimonies (4 geared for adults, 12 geared for children) [Click for more on testimonies](#)
- **Prizes for Vacation Bible School** - As a reward for memorizing Bible verses, we hand out prizes at the end of the week. Please bring about 50-75 prizes for children who can say their memory verses for the VBS time. [More on VBS prizes](#)

## General Schedule for Mission Teams

Unless other arrangements have been made. [Click here for Christmas Break Schedule](#)

### Saturday

3:00–5:00pm Please arrive between 3:00–5:00pm.

7:00pm Welcome & Mission Base Orientation Meeting

7:30pm Free Time

### Sunday

7:30– 8:00am Breakfast

8:00– 8:15am [Chore Ideas](#) (according to Mission Team Leader's desire)

8:15– 9:00am Free time (optional devotional time)

9:00–10:00am Orientation Meeting Session 1 - Cultural Aspects (both sessions given by Site Missionary)

10:15–11:15am Orientation Meeting Session 2 - Ministry Aspects

11:15–12:00am Free time & Ministry Prep (Puppet practice, VBS Prep., Etc.)

12:00 – 1:00pm Lunch

1:00 – 1:45pm Free time and prep for ministries as needed

1:45 – 2:00pm Prep for departure to ministry site (load up everything for ministries)

2:00pm Depart to ministry site

- 2:30 – 3:00pm Get acquainted with the Mexicans from your specially chosen church
- 3:00 – 4:30pm Door to Door [Evangelism & Invitation Outreach Activities](#) (with your specially chosen church)
- 5:00pm [Church/Community](#) & [VBS Outreaches](#) at your specially chosen church)
- 7:30pm [Dinner](#) (tasty, authentic Mexican food prepared by ladies from your specially chosen church)
- 8:00pm Free Time

### **Monday-Thursday**

- 7:00 – 7:30am [Breakfast](#) (come dressed and ready for the day)
- 7:30 – 7:45am [Chore Time](#) (according to Mission Team Leader’s desire)
- 7:45 – 8:15am [Daily Devotions](#) (led by your group as you desire)
- 8:15 – 8:30am Prep for departure to ministry site
- 8:30am Depart to ministry site
- 9:00 – 12:00am [Work Projects](#) (participation by about 1/2 of your group)
- 9:00 – 12:00am Door to door [evangelism, prayer & visitation outreach](#) participation by about 1/2 of your mission team)
- 12:00 – 1:00pm [Lunch at your specially chosen church](#) (tasty Mexican food)
- 1:00 – 1:30pm Free Time
- 1:30 – 2:00pm VBS Prep
- 2:00 – 4:00pm [VBS](#)
- 4:00pm Free Time

**Wednesday Evening** (optional) Please let us know if you would prefer to not do this outreach.

- 5:00pm Dinner (best if eaten at a taco stand close to your ministry site as there’s not much time for returning to the Mission Base to eat).
- 6:00 – 8:30pm [Church/Community Outreach](#)
- 8:30pm Free Time

## **Thursday Evening**

7:30 – 8:30pm Farewell Meeting given by Site Missionary. This is a special time that you'll not want to miss!

8:30pm Free Time

## **Friday - Optional Departure Day or Free Day**

Free Day to shop, go to the beach, see some sites, and experience the local culture.

We also strongly recommend a sharing time among your group before you head for home, some time during your travels back home, or shortly after returning home (led by mission team leader).

## **Saturday Morning**

Depart for home

Note: This is the general schedule we use, however, we are flexible and can easily adjust it to fit your interests if desired.

## **Building Projects**

### **Helping Needy Churches**

During the mornings about half of your mission team will normally be involved in some church related work projects until lunch time. The rest of your team (those who choose to do so) will be involved in Prayer/Visitation ministry.

Because there is such poverty in our area of Mexico, most churches struggle to have even the basic facilities for their people. Most churches even lack the finances to support their pastors. Many pastors, therefore, are forced to work full or part time jobs in order to get by. To be able to come alongside these churches and help them with their facilities meets a great need for the people of Mexico.

### **Where Do Funds Come From?**

Materials for your construction projects are purchased with your mission trip fees. As a result, there's no need to worry about having to raise additional funds for your work projects!

In the event your mission team might want to do a large project, we would ask you to raise additional funds for this.

### **What If Our Team Is Not Skilled?**

No problem! The Mexicans from the church you'll be serving at will oversee and guide you. As long as you don't mind getting a little dirty, and have a willing heart, you don't need any skills whatsoever.

### **What If Some Don't Care to Work?**

No problem! It's also good to know that if some are not able to work for whatever reason, they can choose the door to door evangelism/prayer/visitation Ministry or are free to do something else. No one is forced to work. Everything is voluntary, and there are plenty of options for everyone.

### **We Offer All Kinds of Work Projects!**

No need to worry about what you'll do, there's always work projects for everyone according to their desires. You'll also work alongside your Mexican Christians from the church during your work times. Generally, we'll let them be in charge of the projects that deal with cement work as they're skilled in this area.

Work projects range from light work like cleaning & painting to a little harder like digging and concrete work. For groups who have skilled workers, there are projects like roofing, sheet rock, and construction. Depending on the skill of your team, we'll have the work projects that are just right for your group.

Normally, we have a variety of jobs for groups to do so everyone can participate.

**Here's a sample of the kinds of work projects your team can be involved in:**

- Painting Projects
- Cement Work Projects
- Roofing Projects
- Large Building Projects
- Block Work Projects
- Stuccoing Projects
- Foundation Work Projects
- Digging Projects for Building Prep
- Carpentry Projects
- Electrical Projects
- Sheet Rocking Projects

- Cleaning Projects
- General Work Projects

For those who wish to continue working on the Work Projects after lunch, they are welcome to do so.

### **We Provide the Tools Needed!**

No need to worry about bringing tools as we provide all the tools you'll need for your work projects. However, mission team members are welcome to bring their own personal tools if desired.

### **We Make All Arrangements for Work Projects Before Your Arrival!**

No need to worry about what your work projects will be or about getting them lined out ahead of time as we'll take care of all that for you. We even provide the oversight and direction of all jobs so if you don't have skilled laborers you'll still be able to help out greatly. However, in the event you do have some skilled labor, we'll take that into consideration and use them in their gifted areas.

### **Your Mission Team is Greatly Needed!**

We minister to around 150 churches in our area of Mexico. To be able to come alongside a needy church and help with their church buildings meets a great need and allows the church to better reach their communities for Christ. Our ministry is constantly helping new church plants and existing churches with their needs. We have many churches that beg us to send them a mission team. However, we just don't have enough mission teams to go around. A mission team not only helps with a needy church's facilities but also strengthens them spiritually through the other ministries your mission team will do. Our area of Mexico is safe, and we've worked hard to make mission trips very affordable. Your mission trip fees even cover all materials for your work projects. [Click here for more work projects](#)

## **Vacation Bible School Outreaches**

[Click here for videos & more help](#)

Sunday and Wednesday evenings (Wed. Optional), and Monday -Thursday afternoons, your mission team will do Vacation Bible School Outreaches at the specially chosen church you'll be serving with for the week. The children will range in ages from 3-12.

Often, the younger ones will be accompanied by their moms. Teenagers will often be involved as well or observe from a distance.

A Vacation Bible School is a great way to share the Gospel and disciple those who attend. We have carefully and prayerfully put together this VBS package and have seen it produce great results. It communicates what we believe is a clear, thorough, attractive presentation of the gospel that is fun and interesting at the same time.

## **Your Team Will Do 4 Full VBS's, and 2 Scaled Down VBS's**

The full versions of the VBS's will take place Monday-Thursday afternoons and will last about two hours. The scaled down versions of the VBS's will take place during the preaching time of the church outreaches Sunday and Wednesday evenings and will last about an hour.

The full VBS's will tend to reach more of the street, unsaved children. The scaled down VBS's will tend to reach the children who attend church. Following is the schedule of the VBS's:

- Sunday Evening - Scaled Down VBS (includes testimonies, Bible story, puppet show, and craft & snacks)
- Monday Afternoon - Full VBS
- Tuesday Afternoon - Full VBS
- Wednesday Afternoon - Full VBS
- Wednesday Evening - Scaled Down VBS (includes testimonies, Bible story, and puppet show)
- Thursday Afternoon - Full VBS

**Note:** Wednesday evening ministry is optional. Please advise us if you will not be doing this.

## **Style of VBS**

VBS in Mexico is different than in the states. We have found the best method is to have all the children together rather than trying to divide them up into age groups. Following are the reasons why: (1) many of the older siblings are commanded by their parents to watch their younger siblings so these little family units cannot be broken up (2) the children down here are harder to direct and work with (3) generally, there are inadequate facilities to accommodate a number of groups.

## **Full V.B.S. Outreach Schedule - Approximate time 2 hrs.**

- Game time outside with children (20 min.)
- Song time (15 min.)
- Two short testimonies geared towards children (10 min.)
- Drama or skit if you have one (5-10 min.)
- Puppet show (10 min.)
- Memory verse (10 min.)
- Bible story done by Go Missions to Mexico staff (20 min.)
- Crafts & snacks (15 min.)

Following is more detail on each aspect of the VBS's:

### **Game Time - 20 min.**

Your group will bring some game equipment and play outside games with the children such as jump rope, bean bag toss, ball tosses, duck-duck-goose, soccer, bubbles, face painting, frisbee games, baseball (with plastic bats and balls, etc.). You can organize your mission team into smaller groups who can be in charge of the various games happening. There won't be large group games where all the children will be involved in, but various, smaller games happening at the same time. The children usually will rotate and go from one game to the other as they please. After game time, make sure each group picks up their sports equipment as the children will often try to take it. This is a time to get to know the children and draw a crowd from the community. We would ask if you could, to bring some sports equipment with you for this time.

### **Song Time - 15 min.**

If your team is able, you will do 4-5 children's Spanish songs. If you are not able to do this, then our ministry can do them utilizing your team as desired, or just us doing them. Several of these should be upbeat songs with motions, and several can be slower songs.

### **Testimonies - 10 min.**

Two short testimonies geared towards children (5 minutes each). Please try to share something about how you got saved and how God has changed you or something God has done in your life that brings Him glory. [More on sharing your testimony](#)

## **Puppet Show - 10 min.**

A big highlight of the V.B.S. is the puppet show. We have the puppets and the Spanish scripts. The scripts are easy to follow. They basically just involve voice recognition of each person's puppet. Before each puppet show, we'll do a short practice to orient you. It's really simple so no worries.

## **Memory Verses - 10 min.**

This is a time to embed God's Word into the hearts of those attending the VBS's. These verses will follow the theme of the gospel message and will play a large part in a salvation opportunity we'll give the children on the last day of VBS.

Additionally, during the last VBS, we'll hand out prizes for those who can say from one to all the memory verses. If your team could bring some prizes for the memory verses, it would be great (50-75 would be good). We'll talk more about what kinds of prizes at the bottom of this page. If your team would like to include the verse in your crafts, here are the verses:

- Isaías 59:2: Pero las iniquidades de ustedes han hecho separación entre ustedes y su Dios, y los pecados le han hecho esconder Su rostro para no escucharlos.
- Mateo 13:49-50: Así será en el fin del mundo; los ángeles saldrán, y sacarán a los malos de entre los justos, y los arrojarán en el horno de fuego; allí será el llanto y el crujir de dientes.
- Isaías 53:5: Pero Él fue herido (traspasado) por nuestras transgresiones, molido por nuestras iniquidades. El castigo, por nuestra paz, cayó sobre Él, y por Sus heridas (llagas) hemos sido sanados.
- Juan 3:36: Él que cree en el Hijo tiene vida eterna; pero el que no obedece al Hijo no verá la vida, sino que la ira de Dios permanece sobre él.

## **Bible Story - 20 min.**

This is done by Go Missions to Mexico staff. Because the children are more unruly in Mexico and harder to control, we find a Bible Story told by us works best. We will tell the story utilizing pictures and verses shown on a big screen TV.

### Themes of the Bible Stories

- Sunday Evening: "How Sin Affects Our Relationship with God"
- Monday Afternoon: "Creation and Fall of Mankind"
- Tuesday Afternoon: "Moses and the Ten Commandments"

- Wednesday Afternoon: “Life and Miracles of Jesus”
- Wednesday Evening: “Overcoming Temptation”
- Thursday Afternoon: “Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus”

### **Craft & Snack Time - 20 min.**

This is an important time where your team's participation is important. The children are divided into groups of ten, with one or two people from your team attending them. You will need to bring crafts and snacks for at least 100 children for each of the five VBS's that you'll be doing (we will notify you if more are needed). Package the crafts in bags of 10 (snacks do not need to be packaged in bags of 10). We have discovered that by forming groups and having them sit on the floor, works best for crowd control. Try to avoid candy and sweets for snacks.

### **Salvation Altar Call - Last Day of VBS**

The last VBS (Thursday), we'll present a clear salvation invitation for children to receive Christ. This will be the culmination and goal for all that has been done in the VBS's. It's a special time, and many children will pray to receive Christ or recommit to Him.

### **Summary of What Items You'll Need to Bring for Your VBS Ministry**

- Bring game equipment to play with children during the play time.
- Be prepared to sing some children's songs (If you need help let us know). For help with children's VBS songs consult our website for more help
- Bring crafts and snacks for five VBS's with enough for 100 in each VBS.
- 50-75 prizes for those who memorize VBS verses.
- Come prepared to share 12 testimonies geared for children. [More on sharing your testimony](#)

### **Craft Ideas**

- Coloring books - You can photocopy pages, or purchase a Bible coloring book (preferably in Spanish) and have the children color them. Crayons needed.
- Puppets - Use paper lunch sacks and provide pieces for their mouths, ears, etc. Crayons needed for this craft.
- Paper plate half-masks - Beforehand, cut paper plates in half, punch holes by ears, and cut eyeholes and a slot for the nose. Let the kids color them and put rubber bands through the holes. They can wear the masks by putting the rubber bands around their ears.

- Paper plate visors - Beforehand, cut paper plates in half and punch a hole near each corner. Have the kids decorate them and tie a piece of pre-cut elastic through the holes to make a visor.
- Crowns - Trace a simple outline of the front of a crown onto tag board or other stiff paper. Cut them out and punch a hole at each end. Let the kids decorate them and put a piece of pre-cut yarn or elastic through each hole. To put the crown on, place on head and tie strings in the back.
- You can look on the Internet for other great ideas as well.

## **Snack Ideas**

- Single serving of canned fruit/applesauce, pudding (don't forget spoons.
- Single-serving bags of chips.
- Single-serving bags of peanuts.
- Single-serving boxes of raisins.
- Single-serving cookies, or animal crackers.
- Granola bars individually wrapped Hostess/or similar treats.
- Graham crackers.
- Handi-Snacks (crackers and peanut butter, etc.)

It works best if the snacks are individually wrapped and easily transported. It is often possible to get stores in your area to donate these types of items. Drinks for VBS are optional and up to the discretion and desire of each mission team.

## **VBS Prize Info**

These are given to children who can say anywhere from one to all of the memory verses. Prizes are a great way to reward those who have worked hard to hide God's word in their hearts.

We'll give out varying kinds of prizes depending on how many verses the children can say. It's best to hand out the same kind of prize for the amount of verses memorized. For example; all who can say one verse would all get the same prize, etc. This helps with crowd control and cuts down on each child wanting a different prize (when working with large numbers of children crowd control becomes important).

### **Here are some ideas for prizes:**

- For saying 1 verse - Pencil with a small coloring book or workbook leaflets (in Spanish please).

- For saying 2-3 verses: Rubber balls, small cars (boys) hair things (girls) crayons, party favors toys, bubbles, dollar store stuff, coloring books or workbook leaflets (in Spanish please).
- For saying all verses: Frisbees, jump ropes, soccer type balls, markers, coloring books (in Spanish please), small stuffed animals, etc.

Normally, we'll hand out about 40 prizes to those who can say 1 verse, about 25 for those who can say 2-3 verses and about 10 to those who can say all the verses. Of course, sometimes these numbers can vary if we have more children in the VBS. Any extra items are put into our prize cache and used when numbers are up at a VBS.

We would appreciate it, if you can get a hold of large amounts of coloring book type leaflets, pencils, or crayons, to bring them down. They work great for prizes for those who say 1-3 verses.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness, and we're looking forward to a great VBS with your team.

## Church/Community Outreaches

[Click for videos & more help](#)

Two nights during the week, Sunday & Wednesday (Wednesday is optional), you will do Church/Community Outreaches at the specially chosen church you'll be serving at for the week while in Mexico. There will be two Church/Community Outreaches during the week (Sunday & Wednesday).

The first night (Sunday) you will take the children out for their first Vacation Bible School after your team's participation in front of the church. The other outreach night, which will be on Wednesday, the children will be taken out just like on Sunday, however, will be given a shortened version of VBS (less crafts and snacks).

Generally, the Church/Community Outreaches begin with songs (done by the church). After the song time your group will be introduced. Your group will come to the front of the church and sing a couple songs, do a puppet show, and share a couple testimonies. Following, an evangelistic film will be shown via a video projector & big screen (we provide all this and the movie). After the film, or message, the pastor will wrap up the Outreach.

If you could participate in the Church/Community Outreaches with the following items, it would make it really special. Don't worry about having everything perfect for your participation. Things are more casual in Mexico, and the folks will just be happy to have you.

## **Singing a Couple Spanish Songs**

This will be for the church you'll be serving at for the week. It works out good to have someone who knows the songs well to sing into the microphone and have the rest of the group sing along. If singing a few songs is a problem for your group, don't worry, we can help out or this can be omitted or changed for a drama.

[Spanish Songs for Church/Community Outreaches](#)

## **Puppet show**

The adults love the puppet shows too. We have all the puppets, puppet stage, and scripts for this on cd. All you'll need to do is have some ready volunteers for a little practice after arriving here in Mexico.

## **Testimonies**

At least two volunteers per Church/Community Outreach to share a brief testimony of how they came to Christ (total of 4 testimonies needed), or what He is doing in their lives. For more on what these testimonies should contain and how they need to be shared go to: [Giving Your Testimony](#)

## **Other Activities**

If your group would like they can do dramas or whatever for the Church Outreach. Just let us know of your plans, and we'll work them in.

The church you'll be serving at will welcome you with wide open arms and trust you beyond belief. This is due in part to their trust in us as missionaries. Because we have been working in the area for about 18 years, we have developed many deep relationships with them.

If you have any questions regarding your outreach times, please feel free to talk with us.

## **Vacation Bible School**

**Sunday Evening** - After your mission team's participation in the main part of the outreach, the children will be separated, and you'll do your first VBS. This VBS will be a little shorter than the main ones on Monday-Thursday afternoons. Sunday evening's VBS will not have a play time, and the songs will be reduced to just one or maybe two. The VBS is a little shorter so that it fits within the time frame of the evangelistic movie we'll be showing to the adults.

**Wednesday Evening** - This Outreach is optional. If you choose to do it, the VBS time will be the same as Sunday's, however, it will not have crafts or snacks.

## **Sharing Testimonies**

### **Why Testimonies?**

Testimonies are a wonderful way to communicate what God has done. It is real, it helps us relate to non-believers, it is interesting, and it cannot be argued with. It is our most vital tool in relating to non-Christians. Every believer should be able to tell their testimony in a short, condensed form. They should also be able to relate recent events of answered prayer or things God has done for them. This brings God to life before the non-believer.

During the week you are here, your group will have ample opportunity to share what God has done in their lives. Your Mexican brothers and sisters, and non-believers will be excited to hear from you. It will allow you to be able to relate to them and take away the cultural barriers.

We like to have two testimonies at each event. Counting the church outreaches, and VBS outreaches, your group will be sharing about 8 times. This makes a total of about 16 testimonies needed. Twelve or so of your testimonies will be for children. Try to make sure these testimonies refer to some event in your life when you were a child. This will help you identify with them better.

**Following is some helpful advice for those giving their testimonies, and those who will be translating.**

### **Preparation**

- Write out your testimony. This could be one of the most important factors to giving a clear, concise, and impactful testimony. Often, people, especially teens, get nervous and forget what they want to say, or find themselves forgetting important parts. Writing it down helps to prevent this, and gives the interpreter a chance to see what is going to be said. We strongly recommend you write out your testimony.
- Back the testimony with prayer.
- Pray as you go.

## **Presentation**

- Be definite, specific, and contemporary.
- Be careful of your terminology. Don't use generalization or ambiguous terms.
- Show concern for the one you are testifying to. Show interest in them.
- Remember this is a testimony of what Christ has done for you. This should show in your voice, actions, and facial expressions.
- Point to Jesus. Keep your testimony to the point. Five minutes is the maximum.

## **Content**

- Begin with thanksgiving and praise, thanking God for who He is and His Word, for Christian service, for being able to serve Him, and for a true relationship with Him.
- Don't run down another person's belief. Tell of current answers to prayer.
- Tell of your relationship to Christ.
- Give a comparison of what you used to be like, and what has changed since the Savior came into your life.
- It's best to present a single spiritual truth rather than a rambling story of your life. Emphasize a point and then stop.
- Include something about the power of God-His love, mercy, and grace.

## **Considerations When Speaking Through an Interpreter**

The speaker/interpreter relationship is a dependent partnership comparable to performing a duet. The following suggestions are offered to help speakers make a more successful presentation when speaking with an interpreter:

- Divide your material into short, meaningful sentences.
- Use simple everyday language. Avoid slang, which may be difficult to translate. Stay away from technical or specialized language.
- Talk to the audience. Remember, whether they understand you or not, you are speaking to them, not the interpreter. Speak loudly enough for the audience to hear you, not just the interpreter.

- Practice with the interpreter ahead of time whenever possible. Speaking through an interpreter can be very confusing at first.
- Give any scriptural references to the interpreter ahead of time so that he/she can be ready to read it in Spanish.

## **Evangelism, Prayer, & Visitation Ministries**

This will be one of the highlights of your mission trip! You'll actually go inside homes to pray with needy folks, encourage them, see how they live, and share the love of Christ with them. The people of Mexico really love to be prayed for as it's often their only hope of help. Each person in your mission team will get a chance to participate in these ministries and will themselves be changed as well. Visiting people where they live is the most authentic form to minister to them. It's often a forgotten item in our busy, hectic lives, but as someone has said, "You can impress people from a distance, but you can only change them up close." While serving in Mexico, you'll return to this time-tested, Christ practiced, method of ministering to people.

You'll participate in this ministry in several different formats:

- **Sunday Afternoon**

You'll kick off your week of ministry on Sunday afternoon with an Evangelism and Invitation time in the community in which the church you'll be serving at is located. Your Mexican brothers and sisters in Christ (from the church you'll be serving at) will go with you to share in this time. You'll hand out Bible Tracts, share the Gospel, and invite the community to the activities you'll be doing during the week. Everyone from your group is invited to participate in this rich time. We'll divide your team into groups of 4-5 people per group. Each group will be led by one or two of your Mexican brothers or sisters in Christ from your specially chosen church you'll be serving with in Mexico.

- **Monday - Thursday**

During the weekday mornings, from 9:00-12:00am, about half of your mission team will break up into smaller groups consisting of about four or five people and will go with one or two members from your specially chosen church you'll be serving with to visit homes to evangelize, pray for the people, get to know them, see how they live, encourage them, and share Christ with them. Much of your prayers will involve praying for sicknesses as medical treatment is expensive, poor in quality, and as a result, God is often their only hope. During the week, everyone from your team should try to get the opportunity to participate in this special time. You will also

hand out Bibles to homes not having one and give away gospel tracts as well.

[Click for more](#)

## **Dress Code Guide**

While in Mexico we'll need to ask a few favors of your mission team. Perhaps the most important one involves dress. Please be aware that the people in Mexico are much more conservative and traditional than in the U.S.A. Therefore, please don't wear extreme type clothes, or dress in a way that would cause undue attention to you. To be effective in missions, we must respect our Mexican brothers and sisters while in their country. The first and most important mission principle to understand about missions is that "We must set aside our dress and customs and adopt those of the country in which we are serving." The following info is not intended to judge anyone, just give some helpful guidelines so your mission trip can be as successful as possible.

Keep in mind that you will be involved in a variety of activities: church, work, travel, etc. The weather can be somewhat warm during the day and cooler at night (during winter and spring). During work construction times, it's not wise to wear sandals or open-toed shoes. However, it can be helpful to have a pair of sandals or slip-ons for going to the showers or night trips to the bathroom.

**Here are some helpful guidelines to make your ministry more effective:**

### **For Everyone**

- Avoid a sloppy appearance, please
- Be governed by a sense of modesty, please
- No extreme clothing, please
- Try to cover body piercings, please
- No extreme T-shirts or hats, please
- No extreme hair color, please.

### **For Ladies**

- No suggestive clothing (i.e. tight or form fitting shirts blouses or dresses, short shorts, half-shirts or anything that shows the tummy).

- A dress or skirt/blouse is a must for church (no sleeveless tops).
- Jeans or capris may be worn during work projects and VBS.
- No shorts may be worn to any outreach.
- No excessive jewelry is suggested as the Mexican children might want you to give it to them or might break it.
- Sweatshirt or warm jacket is recommended for the cool evenings (wintertime months: December - March)
- No low-cut necklines on dresses or shirt, please
- No strap-type shirts allowed, please

## **Gentlemen**

- No excessively baggy clothing, please
- Jeans may be worn to church
- Jeans may be worn during work projects and VBS's.
- Longer shorts may be worn during work and VBS times.
- If your ears are pierced, leave the earring(s) at home, please.
- A sweatshirt or warm jacket is recommended for the cool evenings (during spring and winter months).
- No tank top T-shirts, please

Please understand that we don't ask these things to be legalistic or to deprive you of your individuality. It's just that particular appearances don't say the same thing in Mexico as they might in the U.S. The people we are serving are looking at us from their cultural lens and point of view. We must not damage our impact by allowing material things to get in the way.

## **Suggested Clothes to Bring**

### **Work Clothes (For both Men and Women)**

- Old Jeans
- Old shirts
- Work gloves

- Work shoes
- Hat

### **Dress for Vacation Bible School Outreaches/Home Visitation & Prayer Ministry**

- Men - Unless your work clothes are extremely dirty they can be worn to V.B.S. You will be playing and interacting with children in a fairly dusty environment, so changing is not really necessary.
- Women - Pants are fine, no sleeveless tops, dress modestly. Keep in mind V.B.S time is outdoors and somewhat dirty.  
Don't wear your best stuff. It's also a good idea not to wear your jewelry to V.B.S. as the children will want you to give it to them or be distracted by it.

### **Dress for Church Outreaches**

- Men - Nice jeans (or equivalent) and casual shirts
- Women - Dress or skirt that goes below the knees when seated.

**Note for the ladies** - Please do not wear open sleeve tops to any events that involve being around your Mexican brothers and sisters in Christ. They dress much more modestly than those in the states.

## **Photo & Video Orientation Guide**

Pictures and video will play a very important part in your mission trip. It will be the main way you'll remember your trip and report back to your church about all you have done. However, this important tool, if not handled wisely, can harm your work and the people who you'll be serving. Following are some suggestions that will help you use this important vehicle in a healthy manner:

- You'll want to be careful that you don't come across as a paparazzi show to the Mexicans you are serving. If a lot of pictures are taken at the same time, especially during the outreaches, you could be interpreted as being tourists, or your mission trip is more about you and they are just a side show.
- Be careful during the Evangelism, Prayer & Visitation Ministries that you take pictures appropriately as well. It's best to take pictures and video after your visit rather than at the beginning. It's important a relationship is established first otherwise, they might feel like you just came to see how "bad" they have it and want to see their poverty. They might feel like they're an object you've come to

see. However, after relationships have been developed, they will be honored and delighted to have you take a picture of them.

- VBS's are not as sensitive as the other ministries as you'll be working mainly with children. During the VBS playtime, you can take photos and then show them to the children on your cameras. They love to see themselves, and the setting is more of a fun time. However, during formal ministry times, we ask you to follow the above-mentioned suggestions.
- It works out good to have several designated media persons who can take photos and video during the outreaches. We would ask, however, that the media persons take photos and video in such a way as to not draw undue attention to their activity.
- When you are out and about as a tourist would be, and not in a ministry related activity, you can take pictures as you please.

We realize this places a burden on you as everyone will be excited to take photos. However, for the good of those you'll be serving, and so you'll have maximum ministry impact, we have established these suggestions. In some more severe cases, ministry opportunities have been closed because photos have gotten into the hands of some activist in the states and have caused problems. Some Mexican organizations, therefore, don't want to run the risk of being exposed and in some cases, are leery about allowing Americans to enter certain areas to minister. However, our ministry has a good reputation, and with your help, we can protect it.

We thank you in advance for your sensitivity to this important area. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask us.

## Youth Outreaches

For mission teams who would like to add a Youth Outreach to their week, they are welcome to do so. This outreach is normally held on Wednesday evening in conjunction with the Church/Community Outreach. Generally, there won't be a large number of teens at these outreaches as churches in our area are smaller in size and the youth of Mexico marry at a much younger age than in the U.S. If you would like to add this outreach to your schedule then plan on one of the two following options:

1. Have part of your team involved in the Youth Outreach and the rest of your team involved in the Vacation Bible School Outreach during this evening's outreach.

2. Have all of your team involved in the Youth Outreach and don't do a Vacation Bible School Outreach during this evening's outreach.

**Teams who work with youth normally follow this format:**

1. Icebreakers & Games - 20 Min.
2. Music - 15 Min.
3. Testimonies 10 Min. (2-3 Testimonies)
4. Teaching time - 30 Min.
5. Snacks 15 Min.
6. More games if desired 20 Min.

It looks somewhat like a youth group meeting, only dressed up a bit. If you wanted to do some drama, etc., you could. The costs for doing this outreach would include providing some snacks and drinks afterward if possible.

## **Other Helpful Info for Planning for Your Ministries**

[Printable Spanish Nametags](#)   [Learning Spanish Help](#)

[Websites for Ordering Spanish Materials](#)   [Culture & Ministry Orientation Videos](#)

# Chapter 5 - Planning for Your Stay in Mexico: *Get Ready for Mexico!*

## Mission Base Accommodations

### Large, Safe Mission Base

Go Missions to Mexico's Mission Base is located about 4 hours South of San Diego, CA. The facilities are designed to accommodate short-term mission teams and can accommodate over 235 people in bunk beds and over 500 people if camping is desired. The base is fenced, gated and very secure.

The Mission Base is located on 13 acres and has 4 separate facility tracts, each with their own kitchens, dining halls, meeting rooms, showers (with hot water), bathrooms (with flushing toilets), dorm rooms (with cushions on the beds), and parking areas.

Each short-term mission team will have its own lodging tract for its use while on the base. Teams don't share facilities or go to the same church. Each team is its own separate team, with its own lodging facilities, and going to its own specially chosen church.

Because the base has 4 separate facility tracts, we can host more than one mission team at a time which increases ministry impact.

The Mission Base is clean, fenced in, and safe. It is located in a serene setting with a distant view of close-by beaches. It provides the perfect place to retreat to after a full and rich day of ministry. Beaches are about a mile away. [More about our beaches](#)

Each lodging tract is a little different in size to better accommodate different sized mission teams.

Here's a breakdown of how many dorms, showers, and bathrooms your team will have for its use on the mission base depending on your team's size:

**Facility Track 1:** (For teams of 40-80) Has 14 dorms, 12 showers, and 6 flushing toilets.

Note: For teams larger than 80, we combine two or more facility tracts together for your convenience.

**Facility Track 2:** (For teams of 30-50) Has 8 dorms, 10 showers, and 6 flushing toilets.

**Facility Track 3:** (For teams of 20-40) Has 6 dorms, 7 showers, and 5 flushing toilets.

**Facility Track 4:** (For teams of 10-30) Has 4 dorms, 6 showers, and 4 flushing toilets. You will need to bring your own sleeping bag, pillow, towels and personal items.

You will have the freedom to divide your team up as you best see fit regarding dorm assignments.

While on the base you will have: electricity (normal voltage as in the states), hot showers, flushing toilets, meeting areas, kitchen, dorms, and play areas. You can feel secure that your group will be in a safe, fenced in area with no threats of any kind. Also, we as missionaries live on the base and will be here at all times to host and accommodate you with any needs and concerns you might have.

### **Kitchen & Dining Facilities**

The Mission Base has four large kitchens and dining rooms. Each kitchen is furnished with pots & pans for cooking, has two refrigerators, two stoves, coffee pots and other misc. items. We recommend that groups bring paper products for eating as this saves time and effort. We provide 5-gallon water jugs for ease of getting purified water.

### **Shower & Bathroom Facilities**

The Mission Base has a total of 30 showers and 18 toilets. Each facility tract has its own bathrooms and showers. Showers are individual and private. You will need to bring your own towels, soap, and person items for showering.

### **Sleeping Accommodations**

The Mission base has dorm rooms that can sleep 6-8 (most sleep 8) people per room. The beds are bunk-bed style and have cushions. You will need to bring your own sleeping bags and pillows. [Click here for more on sleeping accommodation details](#)

### **Close-by Beaches**

We have beautiful, sandy beaches that are about a mile away from the base. Plan to enjoy this rich treasure during your free time. [Click for more on our beaches](#)

### **Recreation Areas**

The Mission Base has 2 volleyball courts, basketball court, campfire area, Bar-B-Q's, large field for games, quiet areas, wireless Internet & more!

### **Wireless Internet**

For your convenience, the mission base has wireless Internet throughout all its facilities.

## **Drinking Water**

We'll provide 5-gallon jugs for your team to use. Drinking water can be bought at any local store for about \$1.00 for 5 gallons. The Valley of San Quintin is sunny year around, and it's important for team members to keep hydrated. Every team member should have a personal water bottle with them at all times for drinking water and should use them when brushing their teeth etc.

## **Electricity**

There is electricity available in all kitchens, dorms, bathrooms, shower areas, meeting areas and outside as well. Electricity is the same as in the U.S. No need for converters or special devices!

## **Security**

The Mission Base where your team will be staying is fenced and gated. It has plenty of room for parking vehicles no matter what the size. There is always someone on the Mission Base to watch and care for everything, and the gate is locked at night. One of the unique positives of our area is that it's not a border town and we're located in a rural, farming area with no threats of any kind.

## **Laundry Facilities**

For those wondering about laundry facilities, the mission base offers Mexican-style washing machines (washing by hand in sinks). However, there is a laundry mat about 5 miles away where clothes can be washed if needed. Most mission team members just do whatever washing they need to in sinks realizing that they're on a mission trip and prepared for a little inconvenience.

[Click here for more on our location](#)

[Click for safety questions](#)

## **Mission Base Orientation Guide**

### **Make Yourself at Home**

While you're here at the mission base, we want you to feel at home. From our viewpoint, it is yours for the week. The following guidelines are to help your group keep their environment clean for the week they're here. We don't view the ministry base as a hotel, but a place for you to stay and while serving in Mexico. Therefore, we post these guidelines as suggestions. We aren't going to police or check everything on the list. This is a tool we provide to help you.

The following guidelines are what we normally go over with groups during part of their welcome meeting upon arriving at the mission base in Mexico. They are posted here so you can get a head start and understand more fully about your time here in Mexico. You can also make copies and go over them ahead of time with your group if you'd like.

The rules are not intended to take away from your time here, but just the opposite, add to it. We have found that groups get the most out of their trip by avoiding some potential problems. Some of the guidelines deal with your stay on the base, others, about your ministry and safety while traveling to and from the base

## **General Guidelines**

- Please drive slowly entering and leaving the base, be careful of children and activity.
- Please drive carefully on highways, many don't know how to drive down here, and there are slow moving vehicles.
- Please don't write on any walls, bunks, or furniture.
- Please keep the base clean by throwing all trash in trash cans.
- Please don't play in gravel areas, play games, etc. in the dirt area on the South side of the base.
- Please, no smoking at church or around any Mexican (Mexican culture is very sensitive in this area).
- Please conserve electricity by shutting off any unnecessary lights, and shutting off lights upon leaving rooms (electricity cost about three times more than in the states).
- Please don't climb over fences or go on other people's property.
- Quiet on the base after 9:30pm please.
- The main gate will be shut at 9:30pm (unless other arrangements have been made).
- Please take care of the base by not slamming doors, or abusing things.
- If something isn't working or gets broken, please report it.

## Showers

- Please take short, military showers as we're in a desert with little water. Get wet, shut off water, soap and clean yourself, turn water back on and rinse. Please conserve as much water as you can as water is scarce here.
- Please make sure showers are shut off when you're done.
- Ladies can use plastic tubs for shaving their legs.

## Bathrooms

- Please don't put toilet paper or other items in the toilets. Put it in the trash can. Mexican sewers cannot handle toilet paper.
- If any toilets are leaking, or not working right, please let us know.
- Please make sure all water in sinks is shut off when finished.
- Please use your water bottle for brushing your teeth. Don't drink water from taps.

## Dorms

- Please take care of the foam cushions on the bunks. Don't write on them, tear, or mistreat them.
- Please don't hang clothes on curtain rods in your dorms, or trees. Hang them on the clothesline.
- Please don't sweep trash & junk from your dorm outside onto the patio. Dustpans are available for your use.

## Kitchen

- Please don't put food scraps down the sinks. They don't have garbage disposals.
- Please separate trash into burnable and non-burnable trash cans.
- Please save your aluminum pop cans separately (we give them to needy folks to sell for money).
- Please put all food scraps in the scrap bucket. We'll tell you where to dump them.
- When washing dishes, you can add a little bleach to the water to purify it if you like. No need to boil the water.

## Chores

- Each day, between breakfast and chapel, we suggest everyone pitch in and do a few chores. The chore lists are located on the bulletin board by the kitchen. The leader, or someone appointed, can divide up the chores and rotate them as they see fit. By everyone doing a few chores, we keep our environment clean and healthy. Thank you for your great attitude and cooperation. [Click for more](#)

## Health Concerns

- You're in a desert climate, drink plenty of water.
- Take your water bottle with you at all times.
- Don't drink water out of the taps; drinkable water is in the large water jugs.
- Please put caps back on the water jugs when done, this keeps them from getting dirty.
- Water jugs can be filled up at any store.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Eat healthily.
- Wear a hat.
- Put on sunblock.

## Staying in Contact with Your Loved Ones Back Home

**There are several easy ways to stay in contact with your loved ones back home:**

- The best way to stay in contact with your loved ones is via your own cell phone. However, in order to use your cell phone in Mexico, you'll need to make certain to have it pre-programmed before departure. Keep in mind, however, that even some pre-programmed cells still don't work in Mexico (Verizon). You might want to check this out with your provider to be certain ahead of time.
- We have wireless Internet that is available to the leaders, or to whom the leaders give permission. Please bring your laptop for wireless Internet as unfortunately, our personal computers are not available for public use.

- We have telephones on the Mission Base that can be used in cases of emergency or urgent situations.  
Also, keep in mind that while on a mission trip communication can be limited. Let your loved ones know that you might be in contact on a limited basis.

## Emergency Contact Numbers

The Mexican phones below we usually answer in Spanish, but just talk in English, and we'll know what's going on.

**To call direct from the U.S. or Canada, just dial the number as it appears below:**

- U.S. Phone: 1-541-603-0881 - Rings in Mexico on the Mission Base (Answered in English)
- Mexican Phone: 011-52-616-166-2827 (Answered in Spanish) Just talk in English, and we'll speak back in English to you.
- Mexican Cell phone: 011-521-616-101-1536 (Answered in Spanish) Just talk in English, and we'll speak back in English to you.
- Email: [missionstomexico@yahoo.com](mailto:missionstomexico@yahoo.com) Leave us an email, and we'll relay your message.

For those of you back home, rest assured that your loved one is in the hands of God and in the hands of Long Term Missionaries. We'll watch closely over them and will give them a well-rounded orientation meeting that includes some important tips on safety. There are also close-by hospitals for your peace of mind as well.

## Health Insurance Questions

While we do not endorse any health insurance company, here are some organizations who have contacted us and offer health insurance coverage for short-term mission trips to Mexico.

We should mention that in regards to medical attention in the Valley of San Quintin, we do have several hospitals. One that provides free medical attention (does not offer major attention like complicated surgeries, etc.) and a Christian Hospital that offers more complete attention (they do charge a modest fee). In the event that you feel that medical health insurance is important for your group, below is some possible help.

[www.missionaryhealth.net](http://www.missionaryhealth.net)

[www.travelprotectors.com](http://www.travelprotectors.com)

[www.missionarymedicalinsurance.com/](http://www.missionarymedicalinsurance.com/)

[www.GoMissionTrip.com](http://www.GoMissionTrip.com)

## Local Medical Care

- **Hospitals** - We have in our area two main hospitals that can help with medical care. One is a state-run hospital and doesn't charge for medical care. It provides up to minor surgeries and would be the first choice for broken bones, sicknesses, and general care. The other hospital is Christian run and offers more care in the way of surgeries & etc. This would be the choice for Appendix surgery and more complicated care. It does charge, however, it would be about a twentieth of what the same care would cost in America. If you feel you would want Health Insurance you can access our Insurance Page for more help in this area.
- **Care Clinics** - We also have many local care clinics where minor injuries can be addressed.
- **Private Clinics & Doctors** - We have private practices as well that are available.
- **Go Missions to Mexico Doctor** - We have a close doctor friend who is available just for our use if needed.

## Semi-Local Medical Care

- **Large Hospitals Two Hours Away** - We have many large hospitals located two hours away if needed as well.

## San Diego Medical Care

- **San Diego** - Located about four hours north of us are many hospitals in San Diego for major issues
- **Air Lift Capabilities** - We have a local ministry that has the capability of air lifting people with severe injuries who would prefer treatment in the states.

## **Weather for Our Area of Mexico**

### **Summertime Weather - April - October**

Highs are in the 80's to lower 90's; summertime lows will be in the upper 60's and lower 70's. We're a mile from the ocean, so the temperature is moderate year around with pleasant cooling in the evenings.

### **Wintertime Weather: November–March**

Highs are in the upper 60's and 70's. Lows are in the upper 40's and 50's. For those coming during the winter months, be sure to bring extra warm clothes for the evenings and an extra blanket. Buildings are not heated in Mexico, so you'll need a little extra warmth for the evenings. We do have, however, portable heaters in the main meeting rooms of each lodging facility for your convenience if needed.

## Chapter 6 - Safety Issues In Mexico & Parent Section

Some of you might be wondering whether or not it's safe to come to our area of Mexico. You could be a concerned parent, a prospective leader considering a mission trip, or a leader weighing whether or not to endorse your church's mission trip. The following info is statistically based and designed to help you assess the situation from a factual standpoint. It also provides a perspective from us as Long-Term Missionaries who live here year around with our families.

### Safety Issues in Mexico

#### Safety Facts about Our Area of Mexico

- Our area of ministry is in a rural, agricultural setting with no little or no safety issues whatsoever. We are not in a large city, but a farming valley made up of smaller communities.
- Your church group will be staying in a very safe, gated and fenced Mission Base where we as missionaries live. Your mission team will be well taken care of.
- We have a wonderful relationship with the local police and city hall, so they are always ready to help out if needed. They always keep an eye out for us and patrol our area regularly. We've never had an issue, but they're available just in case. In fact, they have sought out our ministry and have asked us to help them in helping the poor who come to them for food, clothing, blankets, housing needs, etc. It's our pleasure to help them, and as a result, we have a special relationship with them. Please rest at peace knowing you'll enjoy the help of the local police if needed. Look at the video to the right to see more.
- Most of the issues in Mexico have occurred over 800 miles from our area and involve infighting among drug traffickers. They do not involve tourist or the common people.
- Mexico's murder rate has fallen sharply from a decade ago. The National Public Security System reports that in 2008, the most recent year with available data, 12 people per 100,000 were the victims of murder. In 1997, the number was 17. In the late 1980s, the murder rate hovered near 20, according to the National Statistics and Geographic Institute. From a factual standpoint, Mexico is safer than ever.
- When comparing the murder rate per 100,000 in the larger cities in the U.S, you might be surprised to know what they are versus the larger cities of Mexico. New

Orleans is highest with around 60 murders per 100,000, and the average, per other larger cities, is around 30 per 100,000. The border city of Tijuana (which you don't drive through when coming to our area, but use a bypass freeway to go around it) is just 13 per 100,000. It's actually 3 times more dangerous to visit Washington DC than Mexico.

- According to Peter Greenburg (a CBS International Reporter), there have been less than 20 occurrences of Americans being involved in any violence over the last 3 years. And these Americans were actually Mexicans who are also U.S. Citizens and involved in drug related issues. There have virtually been no incidents regarding tourist.
- The point of view from most of us who live in Mexico year around is that things have improved over the past several decades. Unfortunately, only the bad news gets out, and the good news is unreported. Here's the good news: the current president is working very hard to clean up Mexico. His administration has changed all the border officials and hired new, young, college educated people to take their place. As a result, there is now virtually no corruption and bribes accepted or allowed at the border crossings. You are treated professionally and with courtesy. There has also been a serious change among the police, and as a result, there are also no bribes or abuses taking place in this area as well. The military is also patrolling the highways and providing security with checkpoints to help with this as well. In addition, there is a branch of the government called, "The Green Angels" who patrol the highways offering help to travelers who break down or need help. Things are really much safer than in past history. We who live here have seen big changes and feel better than ever about safety and travel in Mexico.
- Most of the incidents mentioned in the media are isolated and mainly take place at night or in questionable areas. The newest U.S. Travel Update for Mexico says to use caution when going to Red Light Districts. It also recommends going to recognized tourist areas. Other than that, it is not telling folks to stay away from Mexico, but to just use reasonable caution as with travel anywhere, even in the U.S.
- Contrary to what some might think, and the media portray, there are not people with guns randomly shooting at vehicles as they drive by. Virtually every incident is drug related and involves drug traffic in fighting.
- The main highway you'll be using on your drive down is the major (and only) highway of the Baja Peninsula. Every day there are about 10,000 cars that use this highway, and there have been virtually no incidents whatsoever on this road.

- If Tijuana presents a problem, know that you will not enter Tijuana and will bypass the city altogether on a major freeway when driving south to our area. We use this freeway all the time and feel very safe. And once again, this freeway bypasses Tijuana, so there's really nothing to worry about.
- If even getting close to Tijuana is a problem, you can enter Mexico east of San Diego via Tecate. The highway is #3 and connects in Ensenada. Tecate is a small border town, and the road is quiet and peaceful.
- Mexico is very concerned about its tourism and is patrolling all its highways with additional police and soldiers to ensure maximum safety. The area is also patrolled by Green Angels who help tourist whose vehicles might break down and keep watch as well.
- It's also pertinent to say that some of the media attention has been made a little sensational (as the media tends to do) and blown out of proportion. The murder rates in Mexico have actually fallen over the past 25 years and are better than ever. However, because the type of murders is high profile, they are reported. In the past, this wasn't the case, so what was not reported was not thought about.
- A good case could be put together from things that happen in Southern California (or other places in the U.S.) that it's not safe to travel there as well. We are all accustomed to small risk in life and coming to our area of Mexico is not a large risk.
- A number of years ago my folks visited us and brought their camper trailer. They were pulled over at one of the soldier checkpoints and thought they were going to have big problems. However, the soldiers recognized they had some loose lug nuts on one of their trailer tires. They quickly jacked up the trailer, tightened the lug nuts and sent them on their way. Most people are very friendly and helpful in Mexico, even officials of the government.
- We've been hosting mission teams for 23 years (well over 500 total mission teams hosted) and have had no issues whatsoever. We are on schedule to host another 25 teams this year and foresee no problems whatsoever.
- We are Long Term Missionaries who are in our 20th year living here. You will be well taken care of by us. If we thought your lives were in any way in danger, or things were even remotely out of hand, we'd let you know.
- We can also provide references of recent team leaders who have currently been here if you'd like to talk with someone other than us.

- During your time with us in Mexico, someone from our ministry will be with your team at all times and act as your host.

## **We have God's Promises to Protect Us as We Serve Him**

- We serve a big God who has our days numbered! We're not going to die one minute earlier or later than He has determined for us. There's no safer place to be than in His will doing His work!
- We can be in the safest place on earth, but if God plans to take us home, we won't escape God and avoid death. In the same way, we can in the most dangerous place on earth, and if it's not our time to go, no force on earth will override God's perfect plan for us.
- We have the promises of Psalm 121, which talks about God's promise to protect and watch over us.
- We have the examples of Saul, with the whole Israelite army, who tried to kill King David but was unable to do so because of God's protection over him.
- We have the examples of how God protected the Apostle Paul as he shared the Gospel everywhere and many tried to kill him but were unable to do so because of God's protection.
- Scripture is full of how God watches over His own and protects them. It's a fundamental truth of the Bible.
- God actually is greatly displeased when we don't trust Him and give way to fear. Fear is Satan's greatest tool in stopping the spreading of the Gospel. Our lack of trust deeply displeased God and makes Him out to be a tiny God who is unable to protect us.
- God delights in our faith, and we grow in the Lord as we exercise it. On the contrary, we stay small, and our faith shrinks when we don't trust.
- Lastly, God says in 1 Timothy 1:7, that, "He hasn't given us a spirit of fear (or of timidity), but of power, love and self-discipline. It's Satan who fills us with fear and scares us away from serving God. It's Satan's favorite tool because it works so well. Fear has stopped more people from sharing their faith and serving God than any other thing. God promises to be with us until the end of the age as we share the Gospel (Matt. 28:20). What a precious promise! God also says, "That if He is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31) Not one hair of our head will fall to the ground without God knowing it. And if He watches over the birds of the air,

how much more will He watch over us who are involved in a mission trip fulfilling the Great Commission of sharing the Gospel?

Here are just a few recent articles giving some balanced news coverage you might find interesting:

[Mexico: Numbers Put Safety Issues in Perspective](#)

[Untold Missions Story: Mexico Drug Violence Driving People to Jesus Christ](#)

[Is It Safe to Travel in Mexico](#)

[Is Mexico Safe](#)

[Travel Wise](#)

[Baja California Travel Info](#)

[CBS News Correspondent Peter Greenberg Story About Safety in Mexico](#)

[Click here for more videos about safety in our area of Mexico](#)

[Click here for videos about driving in our area of Mexico and safety](#)

[Safety Statistics from SeaSide Resort website](#)

## **A Special Section Just for Parents**

Welcome, parents, to this special section just for you. As parents of 4, we at Go Missions to Mexico understand your questions and concerns. We have spent our lives working with young people and believe that if we can influence them in their formative years, the lessons they learn will stay with them a lifetime. Please listen to other parent, teens, and children's testimonies videos to the right about out how their mission trips impacted them and then look below for solid answers about sending your child on a mission trip with us.

### **Is Our Area of Mexico Safe and What are the Risk in Travel?**

Some of you might be wondering whether or not it's safe to come to Mexico. You could be a concerned parent pondering whether or not you should allow your son or daughter to come. Or, you might be a leader weighing whether or not you should endorse your church to come. Following is some help and perspective on the matter from us as a family who live in Mexico as long-term missionaries. At the end of this page is a special section devoted to safety issues and in addition, we have an entire section on the website that deals with safety in our area of Mexico. [More on safety](#)

## **Please Look at Our Full Parent Section on Our Website for More Helpful Info**

Feel free to look at the parent section of our website for more info. You can even print it off and hand it out to parents who might be concerned about sending their child on a mission trip to Mexico. Also, we have supplied many video testimonies to the right that shows real people who have recently come to serve in Mexico with Go Missions to Mexico. [Click for parent section](#)

## **Chapter 7 - Travel Help & Directions: *Help for Travel to Mexico!***

### **Van Rental Companies in San Diego**

Following are Van Rental Companies who specialize in renting to short-term mission teams. They offer van rentals along with car, and other types of vehicles.

Of the 8 van rental companies mentioned below, the first 6 companies will bring vans to, and allow you to drop them off, at the San Diego Airport. It is wise to make your rental agreement well in advance so as to get the vans and deals you most want.

Also, the airport of choice is San Diego. This is the closest airport in the U.S.A. to our location. From San Diego, you just rent vans and drive down. We provide detailed driving instructions for getting to our area. [More on driving instructions](#)

#### **Vacation Van Rental**

Suite 200 41593 Winchester Road

Temecula, CA 92590

1-619-985-2321

<http://vacationvanrental.com>

#### **ASAP Rent A Van**

8865 Balboa Ave. Suite G

San Diego, CA 92123

1-888-844-2727

1-858-278-9889

[www.asaprentavan.com](http://www.asaprentavan.com)

#### **Mission Rent A Van LLC**

4192 30th Street

San Diego, Ca 92104

Office: 619-456-0270

1-888-955-VANS (8267)

<http://www.missionrentavan.com>

**Sprinter Rentals**

5275 Market Street

San Diego, California 92114

1-619-262-1026

[www.sprinter-rentals.com](http://www.sprinter-rentals.com)

**Ezrentavan Van Rentals**

3448 India St. San Diego, CA

92101

760-846-6223

[www.ezrentavan.com](http://www.ezrentavan.com)

**Sundiegocarrental.com**

6904 Miramar Road, Suite 108

San Diego CA 92121-2619

1-858-271-8533

1-866-704-8267

[www.sundiegocarrental.com](http://www.sundiegocarrental.com)

**California Baja, Rent-A-Car**

9245 Jamacha BLVD.

Spring Valley, CA 91977

Phone: (619) 470- RENT(7368)

Fax: (619) 479-2004

[www.cabaja.com](http://www.cabaja.com)

**Enterprise Car Rentals**

[www.enterprise.com](http://www.enterprise.com)

## **Auto Insurance in Mexico**

While auto insurance is not mandatory in Mexico, we're sure you'll want to make sure you're covered if you drive your own vehicles down. It could be that your own auto insurance company will provide you with coverage and you don't need a different company. In the event you do need coverage other than you own agency, then the company in the following link might be an option for you to consider. [More on auto insurance](#)

## **Documents Needed for Entering Mexico**

Since March 1, 2010, all U.S. And Canadian citizens (including minors) have been required to present a valid passport or passport card for travel into Mexico. While documents are not routinely checked along the land border, Mexican authorities at immigration checkpoints approximately 20 to 30 kilometers from the border with the U.S. will often conduct vehicle and document inspections and will require valid travel documents. So, in summary, all that's needed at this time for entry in Mexico is a valid passport. Your passport will also be needed for re-entry into the U.S. While the requirement to have a valid passport is stated, a valid birth certificate has been accepted without any issues. Mexico is much more flexible than the United States regarding documentation. It should also be mentioned that documentation is rarely asked for by Mexico. Nonetheless, it is highly recommended that some documentation be carried by all foreigners entering and traveling in Mexico.

## **Mexican Tourist Visas Info**

The following info applies to our area of Mexico (Northern Baja).

Tourist Visas are free for visitors staying less than 7 days in Mexico and appear to be somewhat optional as to rather or not they're really needed. Our area of Mexico has been declared a "Free Zone," and visitors can stay up to 7 days without paying a fee for a Tourist Visa. If a Tourist Visa is obtained, then it must be mentioned that your stay in Mexico will be 7 days or less, otherwise they will give you a Tourist Visa that cost around \$25 and lasts for up to 180 days. Mexico has different classes of Tourist Visas, and the only free one is for visitors staying 7 or less days in Mexico.

While Mexico has stated that these free Tourist Visas are needed, it appears they have no desire to make sure you have one. You will not be asked for a Tourist Visa

from anyone and therefore seems to be somewhat optional. Mexico's greatest desire is that tourism grows and that you come down and spend your money to help their economy and needy people.

Mexico would like those who get the free Tourist Visas to drop off the stub of the Tourist Visa at their immigration office before leaving Mexico. However this can be a big challenge as finding the office, and then finding the border crossing from the immigration office can be complicated. Most folks choosing to obtain these free Tourist Visas don't bother dropping them back off at the immigration office as there's no penalty for not doing so.

**If you decide to get Tourist Visas then here's the way to do it:**

- Just after crossing the border pull over to your right.
- Ask an official for the office where the Tourist Visas are obtained.
- Be certain to mention that your stay in Mexico will be no more than 7 days and ask for the free Tourist Visa.
- You will need your passport or original Birth-Certificate.
- If a child is not accompanied by both parents, a notarized permission form is needed giving permission from the absent parent that their child has permission to travel in Mexico.

Wait times for mission teams of 20 or more can be around an hour or more.

## **Passport Info**

### **For Re-entry into the United States from Mexico**

Following is information from the U.S. Department of Customs and Border Protection Agency regarding passports needed for re-entry into the U.S.

- **Adults 18 and Older** - Passports are needed for re-entry into the U.S. at this time.
- **Minors 16-18** - Passports are not needed under the following condition: U.S. citizen children between the ages of 16-18 arriving by land or sea from contiguous territory and traveling with an adult supervised school group, religious group, social or cultural organization, or sports team, may also present an original or copy of his or her birth certificate, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a Naturalization Certificate.

- **Minors 16-18** - Passports are needed if the above condition is not met.
- **Minors 15 and Younger** - Passports are not required but recommended. An original Birth Certificate and photo ID (for students) is acceptable at this time according to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency (see info below).

## U.S. Department of Customs and Border Protection Publication

- **Children** - U.S. citizen children ages 15 and under arriving by land or sea from a contiguous territory may present an original or copy of his or her birth certificate (issued by the Vital Records Department in the state where he or she was born), a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a Naturalization Certificate. If the child is a newborn and the actual birth certificate has not arrived from the Vital Records Department, we will accept a Hospital issued birth certificate.
- **Groups of Children** - U.S. citizen children between the ages of 16-18 arriving by land or sea from contiguous territory and traveling with an adult supervised school group, religious group, social or cultural organization, or sports team, may also present an original or copy of his or her birth certificate, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a Naturalization Certificate.

The following info has been taken from the U.S. Department of State website. Here's a link if you would care to confirm these findings for your info as well: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

If the above website changes or moves you can access this next website and then go to the bottom, right of the page and select "Traveling Outside the U.S. Documents Needed" [http://www.getyouhome.gov/html/eng\\_map.html](http://www.getyouhome.gov/html/eng_map.html)

[More on Passport info](#)

- **Other Helpful Websites**

How to get a passport in a hurry: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/hurry/hurry\\_831.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/hurry/hurry_831.html)

International Travel: Resource Library:  
<http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Travel/International.shtml>

## **Driving Directions to Go Missions to Mexico's Mission Base**

We provide easy, detailed driving directions to the mission base on our website and in a printable format. There are basically just 4 turns you'll need to make on your drive down so arriving is easy. Below are links to driving directions:

[Driving Directions to Go Missions to Mexico's Mission Base](#)

## **Driving Directions for Returning to the U.S. from Go Missions to Mexico's Mission Base**

We provide easy, detailed driving directions for returning to the U.S. from Go Missions to Mexico's mission base. Below are links to driving directions:

[Driving Directions for Returning to the U.S. via Tijuana](#)

[Driving Directions for Returning to the U.S. via Tecate](#)

## Chapter 8 - Cultural Understanding: *Understand Those You're Serving!*

Below are articles & videos that are recommended for all team members. You can print copies for your group to read, or you can make yourself a copy and go over it with your group. Please be certain that your group is well informed regarding this important section.

[Customs & Culture of Mexico](#)

[Courtesies & Manners](#)

[Dress Code Sensitivity](#)

[How to Relate to the People of Mexico](#)

[Cultural Perspectives](#)

[Principles for Highly Effective Mission Trips](#)

[Ministering in Mexico](#)

[Culture & Ministry Orientation Videos](#)

## Chapter 9 - Training Resources: *Get Ready for Cross-Cultural Ministry!*

Below are articles for training purposes. You can print copies for your group to read, or you can make yourself a copy and go over it with your group. Please be certain that your group is well informed regarding this important section.

[Mission Trip Training Resources](#)

[Ten Commandments for Mission Participants](#)

[Dealing with Negative Attitudes](#)

[Ways to Damage Your Mission Trip](#)

[Cross-Cultural Understanding Milestones](#)

[Surviving Culture Shock and Stress](#)

[Why Some Mission Trips are a Waste of Time](#)

[An Analysis of Short-Term Missions](#)

# Chapter 10 - Mission Trip Devotions & Journals: *Being Spiritually Fit!*

## First Things First

In order to have a servant's heart, experience life-change for your mission team, and to be greatly used by God in the lives of those you'll be serving in Mexico, we encourage you to have a devotional time at the beginning of each day. We, as the site missionaries, will do a Cultural & Ministry Orientation Meeting Sunday morning that can act as your devotional/church if you'd like. We'll also do Debriefing/Send-Off Challenge on Friday morning that can act as your devotional for Friday if you'd like as well. Your group will be responsible for your own Daily Devotionals Monday - Thursday. We kindly ask that everyone attend all meetings and devotionals with a receptive heart. It's easy for some to think that their tasks might be urgent and more important. Please encourage all to attend and have a learner's heart. You are encouraged to come up with your own devotionals, or you can use some of the options below.

Below are resources for mission trip devotional journals. Some are free and offered as a gift from Go Missions to Mexico.

[Daily Devotions](#)

[Free Mission Trip Devotional Guides](#)

[Mission Trip Training Resources for Purchase](#)

[Discipleship Materials by Go Missions to Mexico](#)

[Suggested "End-of-the-Week" Sharing Meeting](#)

[Discovering the True Riches of Life Message - Farewell Meeting Message](#)