



MEXICO MISSIONS TRIP

(Fri PM-June 13 to Fri-June 20)

Large 'New Creation' Church

Minister in Saltillo Churches

Plaza Cathedral

Saltillo Brick Factory

Big Children's Program

Children's Ministry at Dump

Monterrey Shopping

Village Meal of Goat

Blanket Factory

Swimming at Padre

Prayer with Juan Casas

Village Ministry

Silver Factory

Ministry/Tour Orphanage

HIGHLIGHTS:

This Mission Trip has a Variety of Ministry Opportunities. The week is Packed with Ministry, Fun, Sightseeing and Shopping and will be a Week that will Change your Life. We will Minister in Saltillo Churches, in Villages, in an Orphanage, and in a Dump. We will See the Factory for Bricks, Blankets and Silver. We will Visit a Canyon, Shop in Monterrey, Sample a Goat in a Village, and Receive Prophecy from a Mexican Prophet/Pastor. And We will End at the beach on South Padre Island.

MEXICO MISSION TRIP INSTRUCTIONS

SALTILLO, COAHUILA, MEXICO BASE:

Saltillo is located four hours south of the border from Laredo, TX. The base where we will be staying is a pretty two-story house surrounded by mountains. There are 5 dorm rooms, 3 bathrooms, a dining room/living room, and kitchen. The base does have a washer and dryer (cooperated with US quarters). Blankets and pillows are provided, but each person needs to bring their own towels and sheets. Youth will need to stay at the base housing and not leave unless given permission. The plumbing in Mexico is not like the US. DO NOT put toilet paper in the toilet, but in the waste basket.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS:

The group will be going in vans. While traveling keep your ID with you, because if it is in your baggage, it will be hard to get to once we are at the border. From Longview to Laredo, it will be around a 11 hour trip. We will probably leave out at night around 9 pm on Friday night, arriving at Laredo for breakfast on Saturday morning. We will then pick up our Mexico Car Insurance, change our money to pesos (1.00 US Dollar = 10.6 Mexican Peso) and cross the border. We will then drive the 4 hours to Saltillo, being able to drive in safety in the day and being able to see the sights and mountains.

There are three options on what van to use; personal van, church van or rented van. A church or personal 15 passenger van would be less costly. With a personal van, the specific owner has to go with us on the trip. With a church van, the church would give authority to use their van on a church letterhead letter. I will get with you later on how to write that letter. With a rented van, even though it would be more costly, it would be safe and comfortable. I have located a rental company in Dallas that allows their rental vans to go into Mexico. The only problem with local rental companies is that you have to get permission to drive the van into Mexico. It's your decision. Any way you decide, we will need a van in good condition, preferably holding eight people.

BORDER CROSSING:

Every person will have to fill out a form to receive their personal tourist visa to enter into Mexico. You should keep this visa with you always after entering Mexico. Each vehicle will need to get its permit to enter. At the border, after getting our papers, there will be a general inspection of our vehicle papers and belongings by the border guards. There will then be a second inspection of our vehicle papers and belongings at the second check point that is around 15 miles into Mexico. Please keep the conversation down as we are being checked and please no joking.

PERSONAL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

A passport, although NOT REQUIRED to enter Mexico, is excellent identification. If you don't use a passport, You must have a notarized birth certificate OR voter's registration AND a form of picture ID, preferably your driver's license. We'll need two forms filled out by all: 1. Release of Liability, and 2. Permission for Medical Treatment. For those under 18 years of age, we MUST have a NOTORIZED parental permission slip signed by BOTH parents.

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS:

It is not true that those who travel to Mexico will always get sick. Those that get sick, get sick because they do not take normal precautions. From my experience with many other missions trip groups and from living there myself, if we take general precautions, noone will get sick. Tap water in Mexico is unfit to drink, but not unfit to bathe. All bottled water, bottled beverages, and most processed foods are prepared with purified or boiled water, so they are safe. Sodas are plentiful and cheap. Cooking and brushing of teeth will be done with bottled water at the base. Fruit that can be peeled will be safe. We will avoid street vended food. Occasionally someone will get sick from the normal stress and adjustments of being in a foreign country and eating new and unusual food. So just relax and enjoy the trip. Medicines may be purchased in Mexico without a prescription, however you need to have a prescription to get the medicine back across the border into the US. If you bring prescription medicine from home, be sure it is in the original container. If it does happen and you feel sick, tell us immediately, because we can get on top of it quickly.

SAFETY:

Parents can feel safe, knowing that we have hosted groups many times and having lived in Saltillo four years. We will do everything possible to ensure your child's safety. Parents can call the house where we will be staying direct from the US by dialing 011-52-84-178899. It is more difficult and costly for youth to call back to the US. It takes buying 120 minutes of AT&T, MCI, or Sprint phone cards to make a 10 minute international call back to the US.

WHAT TO BRING:

We would like everyone to pack light, with one suitcase and one carry-on that will fit under the seat in the van. You should dress modestly, comfortably and pleasantly. The clothes you bring should be conservative, casual and durable. We must remain culturally sensitive and be a good witness as a guest in a foreign country. Shorts are not to be worn during ministry. Don't forget these items: identification, Bible, small notebook, pen or pencil, camera, film, batteries, a few bringing an alarm clock, sunglasses, sun-tan lotion, medicines in their original containers, English/Spanish dictionary, toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.), snacks for the trip, 6 –pack soft drinks (what all like) and comfortable walking shoes

MINISTRY:

We have been given the awesome privilege of participating in the adventure of serving the Lord in the work He is doing among Christians in Mexico. We need to always keep in mind the reasons for which Jesus is bringing us to Mexico:

- 1. to encourage and strengthen the church**
- 2. to spread the Gospel**
- 3. to transform our outlook so that we may see the world from His perspective**

A battle is being fought. Whenever God does something, Satan tries to undo it. Prayer is the way to staying ahead in the battle. We need to realize we cannot accomplish anything of eternal value or lasting significance in Mexico if we do not operate with the strength, guidance, and spiritual anointing God gives to those who are serving Him. We need the Holy Spirit's working in our lives to bring about an effective work. Our personal relationship with Jesus Christ is our lifeline – don't neglect it.

WORK TEAMS:

We will be dividing into different teams for work that needs done., Work teams will take on the activities: Kitchen food preparations, kitchen cleanup, Loading & unloading of the vans, Washer/dryer with the clothes, General house cleanup. The food will be prepared by us in the kitchen with food purchased and brought with us from the US.

DRIVER AND VEHICLE INFORMATION

Rental Agreement Or Church Permission Of Vehicle Use Letter is Required. Those driving their own cars more than 13 miles into Mexico must get a vehicle permit. It costs \$12, payable by credit card, at Banjercito checkpoints 13 miles into the country. Original vehicle title (preferred) or registration is required before the permit is issued. If the auto is financed, a notarized letter from the lien-holder granting permission for the auto to enter Mexico also is required.

If you enter Mexico with a car, you must leave with it. In recent years, the high rate of U.S. vehicles being sold illegally in Mexico has caused the Mexican government to enact stringent regulations for bringing a car into the country - at great inconvenience to motoring American tourists. In order to drive into the country, you must cross the border with the following documents: title or registration for your vehicle; a birth certificate or passport; a credit card (AE, DC, MC, or V); a valid driver's license with a photo. The title holder, driver, and credit-card owner must be one and the same - that is, if your spouse's name is on the title of the car and yours isn't, you cannot be the one to bring the car into the country. For financed, leased, rental, or company cars, you must bring a notarized letter of permission from the bank, lien holder, rental agency, or company. When you submit your paperwork at the border and pay a \$12 charge on your credit card, you will receive a tourist visa, a car permit, and a sticker to put on your vehicle, all valid for up to six months. Be sure to turn in the permit and the sticker at the border prior to their expiration date as you return to the USA; otherwise you could incur high fines. The fact that you drove in with a car is stamped on your tourist card, which you must give to immigration authorities at departure. If an emergency arises and you must fly home, there are complicated customs procedures to face.

MEXICO VEHICLE INSURANCE

Every vehicle should have Mexico Vehicle Insurance before entering Mexico. Sometimes the rental company for your rental van sells Mexico Vehicle Insurance. Otherwise this can be purchased through various companies, but the preferred and standard company is Sanborn's Mexican Insurance with headquarters in McAllen, TX. To request general information or for insurance order information, see their webpage at <www.sanbornsinsurance.com> or contact their Customer Service Representatives via email at <info@sanbornsinsurance.com> or call 1-800-222-0158 toll free. Besides along the border, they have other branch offices through many larger cities in Texas.

RULES OF THE ROAD

When you sign up for Mexican car insurance, you should receive a booklet on Mexican rules of the road. Read this booklet in order to avoid breaking laws that differ from those of your native country. The strictly enforced law for locations near Mexico City, Hoy No Circula (Today My Car Can't Circulate), applies to all private vehicles, including your own. One of several efforts to reduce smog and traffic congestion, this law prohibits every privately owned vehicle (including out-of-state, foreign, and rental cars) from being used on one designated weekday. During emergency smog-alerts, which usually occur in December and January, cars are prohibited from circulating on two days of the week. Cars in violation are impounded by the police. Expect a hefty fine as well. The weekday you can't drive is specified by the last number or letter of the license plate: on a non-emergency week, 5-6 are prohibited on Monday; 7-8 on Tuesday; 3-4 on Wednesday; 1-2 on Thursday; and 9-0 on Friday. For further information, contact the Mexican Government Tourism Office nearest you, and by all means plan your schedule accordingly. Illegally parked cars are either towed or have wheel blocks placed on the tires, which can require a trip to the traffic-police headquarters for payment of a fine. When in doubt, park in a lot instead of on the street; your car will probably be safer there anyway. If an oncoming vehicle flicks its lights at you in daytime, slow down: it could mean trouble ahead. When approaching a narrow bridge, the first vehicle to flash its lights has right of way. One-way streets are common. One-way traffic is indicated by an arrow; two-way, by a double-pointed arrow. A circle with a diagonal line superimposed on the letter E (for estacionamiento) means "no parking." Other road signs follow the now widespread system of international symbols, a copy of which will usually be provided when you rent a car in Mexico. Mileage and speed limits are given in kilometers: 100 kph and 80 kph (62 and 50 mph, respectively) are the most common maximums. A few of the newer toll roads allow 110 kph (68 mph). Observe the posted speed limits, which can be as low as 20 kph (12 mph). Safety on the Road First of all, never drive at night in Mexico, especially in remote and rural areas. Banditos are one concern, but so are potholes, free-roaming animals, cars with no working lights, road-hogging trucks, and difficulty in getting assistance. It's best to use toll roads whenever possible; although costly, they are much safer. Plan driving times, and if night is falling, find a nearby hotel. Some of the biggest hassles on the road might be from police who pull you over for supposedly breaking the law, or for being a good prospect for a scam. Remember to be polite - displays of anger will only make matters worse - and be aware that a police officer might be pulling you over for something you didn't do. Corruption is a fact of life in Mexico, and the \$5 it costs to get your license back is definitely supplementary income for the officer who pulled you over. If you are stopped for speeding, the officer is supposed to take your license and hold it until you pay the fine at the local police station. But the officer will always prefer a mordida (small bribe) to wasting his time at the police station. If you decide to dispute a charge that seems preposterous, do so with a smile, and tell the officer that you would like to talk to the police captain when you get to the station. The officer usually will let you go rather than go to the station.