

HCC YOUTH MEXICO MISSION '23

“KAIROS”...

Everything we do is marked by the steady march of time.

Seconds lead to minutes to hours to days to weeks to months to years to decades to centuries. The problem for all of us is that the clock is always running the wrong way!

And we can't stop it's crawl toward the next click.

Sometimes we wish it would go faster. Sometimes we want it to slow down so we can savor the moment. But it's always moving.

We lose those moments to the past, never to come again.

What are YOU doing with your life right now?

High School. College. A Job. Nothing.

Are you just muddling along, afraid to start, or afraid to quit?

We speak in terms of “Chronology”...like the minutes, hours, days and years you can count.

Carefully calculated. Even ordained by God in a measurement of “Time”. In the Bible, in the New Testament part, a word is used to talk about time that doesn't mean our kind of “time”.

It's the word “Kairos”. This speaks to a more God-ordained time through history when everything comes together in His will...a “right time” or “appointed season”. It's time in God's dimension! And it's not marked by the past, the present, or the future. It's like a collision of the sacred and the secular! Beyond Matrix. Beyond Metaverse. It's GOD-time!

Kairos moments allow us to get a glimpse of the “other side”, around the corner into eternity. Mind-blowing stuff!

We actually see how God is working!

It's a moment when God moves in miraculous ways!

This HCC Youth Mexico Mission is a “Kairos” kind of thing. What God does on these trips is not bound by the confines of space or time. His Spirit flows...in us, through us, inexplicably powerful, intersecting our lives with the lives of a special family in Mexico.

We hope you'll seriously consider being part of this KAIROS moment in time.

This summer, JUNE 16-27, 2023.

Are you ready, willing, watching, waiting for Him to move in Your life?

In this world?

This could be your “KAIROS”....don't miss it.

TENTATIVE TRIP ITINERARY

June 15, Thursday: Pre-Trip Day

All participants deliver luggage, paperwork etc. to be loaded on vehicles today by 6:00pm. Adult Leaders have been working hard earlier this week finalizing plans, doing inventory of camping, tools, and travel gear, making sure everything is ready for the trip. All personal items/clothing in our totes, etc. must be checked in this evening and packed in the rigs for early take off the next morning. We need a good night's sleep. Carry-on bag, pillow, passports, phones and wallets all come the next morning. Medication and cell phones and passports will be checked in then. Pray today for all the preparation to come together completely.

June 16, Friday

We gather with our families to check in, eat a Continental Breakfast, and participate in a Prayer Circle early this morning. Then we load up in our vehicles and embark on this incredible adventure to serve! Our travels today will take us down I-5 south to our planned overnight stop in Northern California. We goof around, laugh, stare out the window, sing dumb songs, listen to music, sleep, play games, talk, and eat at fast food places which seems cool today, but will get very old by the end of the trip. Our overnight stay will probably be at Quail Lake Baptist church in Stockton, CA.. They have been gracious hosts on previous trips. No showers tonight or in the morning and be ready to sleep on the floor. We'll gather for prayer, a Bible message, singing and worship tonight before we turn in. We're focusing hearts and minds, reminding ourselves that we are meant for this moment: Kairos!

June 17, Saturday

We're up early and headed south to our overnight stop at an L.A. area Christian college campus. The drive today is long and boring. The landscape seems all the same and the weather is more than likely very warm. The trek over the "grapevine" into Los Angeles is always a challenge. Pray that our vehicles run well, and that we make good time traveling. We'll settle into our dorm rooms and enjoy our last shower and flush toilets for a while. We share our thoughts to close our day during a special time of Worship, & Celebration of the Lord's Supper. It is a powerful time together. God is with us. This is the moment...we're ready!

June 18, Sunday

TODAY is a big day. By the time it gets dark outside we will be settled in our campsite in Mexico. We get up early this morning, grab some breakfast and head south to San Diego. We will stop to purchase last minute ice, fuel, wait, and wait some more. We eat one last meal of "fast food", then check in with the AMOR reps at their meeting place and meet their Interns who accompany us in Mexico. They brief our drivers with instructions on how to safely get through the Tijuana traffic and remind them to stay in the caravan. Our trucks and trailers must go through a special section just for big vehicles with cargo. Each of us get out of our vehicles and walk to the border entry for groups where we present our passports and paperwork, one by one, and are welcomed into Mexico. There are likely no problems crossing over into Mexico. The border authorities are familiar with AMOR Ministries and the very good reputation they have.

We wait for our "Mexican Bus" to pick us up at the border waiting area and take us to the AMOR Camp...either in the Tijuana area or Rosarito.

The first thing we notice as we drive through Tijuana out of the tourist area, is the stark landscape, lots of people walking, and really mangy dogs! There is hardly any vegetation

and it's about ten degrees hotter than it was in the United States. We recognize some of the names of American corporations who have built some huge manufacturing plants. Some sit idle, likely casualties of a bad economy and trade issues. Others are up and running with minibuses that will be overflowing with workers heading to these jobs on the weekdays. But today is Sunday, and the so-called "parks" are full of families and soccer games. They are mostly dusty fields of broken concrete & a tree or two.

This year we are bound to see more homeless people waiting at the borders to enter the United States. They come from everywhere now, many from Haiti, Cuba, South and Central America, Mexico, and even farther away like Ukraine and Africa!

The farther out of the city center we drive; it becomes shacks and areas full of old cars and junk. We appear to be driving through a dump. Looking closer, we realize it is where people live. It looks like cardboard boxes and wooden pallets stacked up with clotheslines hanging between them on hillsides terraced with old tires. What a change from just a few miles ago in the United States. It's absolutely incredible. We ride the bus through the crazy traffic to the private AMOR Campground near Tijuana. If we are sent to Rosarito, our campsite is likely a rented field with AMOR guards and base there. AMOR security men on duty make us feel much safer at both sites.

The Tijuana area AMOR campsite in Mexico is in a large, fenced area with hundreds of students just like us, camping and getting ready to build. It's "primitive camping" with no running water or electricity, with outhouses for toilets, and a sheltered area for "bucket showers". Everyone is camped in tents...packed together with all their gear, campfire areas, cooking outside, and piles of building tools and supplies. Each group gets a rectangle piece of ground right next to another group, and another group, and another group! Some years, over a thousand youth and some adults! This little plot of dust and gravel doesn't seem near big enough for all our things. We look and think and plan it like putting together a puzzle, and miraculously after much discussion, we fit.

Some of the groups are just arriving, just like us, and are intent on getting their tents and campsites ready to live in for the next week. Others are just finishing their time in Mexico. They look tired, dirty, and yet very content. In the evening after dinner there is a conglomeration of campfires. Lots of talking, laughing, singing and everyone seems to be getting psyched up for what's ahead. Some are intent on getting out to their first day of work on the house, others are preparing to travel home. We talk about the people we will be building for. AMOR has given us the family's biographies before we left home.

It tells us about the families and what the Mexican Pastors (who have chosen them to receive the house) say regarding their situation. We have learned what their income is, their children's names, what they do for a living, if they are believers. And after the talking... it's time to get to bed. We head for the "bano" for the last time (don't forget to take the T.P. and a flashlight!). We brush our teeth with a little bit of drinking water out of a paper cup, get on our warm jammies (it gets cold at night). We crawl in our sleeping bags. The stars shine bright, and the air is crisp. Anticipation of the next day, the amazing sights and sounds... all we experienced today makes it tough to go to sleep. The morning will bring a new day with new challenges. We're up for it. We are moved to action! We will build a family a home - a meeting place and shelter for "family"! It's great to think about what a bunch of students and adult coaches can accomplish in a few short days. We can impact people we may never see again. We hope they understand we do it because we love Jesus ...and we love them...and Jesus loves them. We are ready...ready for this important moment that will change lives!

June 18, Monday thru June 22, Thursday

We keep joy and the love of Jesus at the forefront of our work as we learn from the people of Mexico and the work of construction on the building project! Each day now begins early. We crawl out of our sleeping bags, eat breakfast, pack lunches & a few tools for the days' efforts. We gather for prayer and a daily Bible thought to inspire us. Then load up in the Bus and it's off to the work sites. We find the ride to the house-site an experience in itself! The bus is the very same "red bus" vehicles that the Mexican workers ride to their jobs in the factories. Loud music and happy drivers make for a crazy trip! We work all morning, break for lunch and head home when the days critical projects are completed. Some days it is hot, some day's cool...but usually dry. Everything is dusty and dirty. AMOR has gotten all the tools and materials we need to the site for us to begin. The first day is unbelievable. We level and prepare the site. Sometimes that means digging out "junk", working to clear the site. We rake, shovel, dig, measure, and plan. We get the forms ready, then we mix concrete by hand until the muscles in our arms are screaming for relief. Cement, sand, screens, water, wheelbarrows, shovels, mixing tubs. It's a process that takes a lot of people doing hard work. We pour the slab, float & trowel the concrete. Some of us begin measuring and cutting boards to build the walls. These next few days we settle into a rhythm of manual labor and interacting with our Mexican family and the people of the neighborhood. It is back breaking work. We're thirsty. Hot. Muscles are getting sore. We want to give up. We want to work 'til we drop! It's a battle of our will to keep going and stay encouraging to those working with us. It's unlike anything we've done before. We do this out of love....love for the Lord and love for these people. They seem so appreciative. We struggle to communicate with them in our limited Spanish...and it's better with some of the youth and adults who are more fluent. Mexican kids are amused by us and want to talk to us "in English" and play. They all want to help us build their house. It's very humbling. This "house" we are building will be just 11ft by 22ft. We have garden sheds at home bigger than this! (There might be something we can learn about how much square footage you really need to live as a "family"!)

It's got a concrete floor, wooden 2x4 walls, stucco finish and a tar paper roof. And they are so excited to be receiving it! We have paid some extra money to buy supplies so we can give them a door with a lock and windows that open and close. We are learning how to build with great joy and care. At sundown, we feel good. Not physically, but spiritually and emotionally.... and as a group together. It feels like the most important work we have ever done in our lives. During the time before dinner we can buy AMOR t-shirts, trinkets, a Mexican Coca Cola, etc. at the AMOR store at our campsite to remember our time here and to support the AMOR programs that will support our family. Our cook has been busy all day getting our evening meal prepared, the kitchen set up, and prep for the next days' meals done. She cleans up stuff and keeps a close eye on the water barrels, shoos animals out of our campsite and re-stakes tents that blew over during the day. One of our Adult Leaders makes sure those who need medication, and first aid are taken care of. The evenings are a time to clean up, enjoy dinner together, rest, talk, play a little "Cosmic Wimp Out" and conclude with a campfire that features singing praises to the Lord, prayer, a Bible lesson, and sharing by everybody about their day and what God has taught them. Then a snack, and to bed.

Tuesday's work on the building involves putting up the framed walls and the roof. If there is time that day, we begin the process of putting up the "piano wire", tar paper and then "chicken wire", which is the base for the stucco on the wall. Wednesday is spent on the wire completion and beginning to actually start stuccoing. THAT is a wild thing....that stucco gets EVERYWHERE! We are reminded not to get it on our bare hands as it can cause skin problems on some people. Thursday we hopefully finish the stucco layers and the house will be

complete. If we are behind, we take Friday morning to complete the job. Floor, walls, roof, door and a window or two. When all is done a family has a house to make a home! Our love takes the shape of a house.

June 23, Friday

This morning, it is time to "Dedicate" the house to the Lord. We go to our family's new home and celebrate with them! We visit, sing, give them the keys to their new house, read some scripture in Spanish, pray for them and their home, give them gifts and enjoy the time together. After the "Dedication", today we head back to our campsite for the afternoon to begin packing up for home. The evening begins with an authentic Mexican dinner with AMOR's "LaCocina". Wonderful Mexican women have cooked a special meal for us to enjoy. This evening is special. There is a part of us that does not want to leave this place. Our time of sharing tonight around the campfire is deep, and prayer time is so good. We shed some tears and talk about how great it's been and determine that we will come again. We have experienced true joy in every sense of the word! We are keenly aware that this has been a time like no other in our lives. We prepare to get ready to leave the next morning. It's a little sad to think we are heading toward home tomorrow.

June 24, Saturday

Today we must leave Mexico. We pack the last of our, take down the tents, load things up, grab our "sack-breakfast-to-go" and say goodbye to this "home away from home". We are melancholy about leaving. We have felt so alive here. We have given much and grown much. It's such a different world...but we like it. Our priorities are not the same here. Perhaps maybe they will never be the same anywhere we are again.

We do relish the thought of a real shower and toiletand an ice-cold soda to drink! Once the campsite is cleared and everything is loaded, we say goodbye to our AMOR Intern and Security Guards as the Mexican bus arrives to take us to the U.S. border. The border crossing takes longer coming back. The U.S. border officials are careful about checking who crosses into the United States. They check our Passports and ask why we were in Mexico. They are polite, but serious. This is also not the time to make comments about terrorists, drug-smuggling, illegal aliens, etc.. Sometimes our wait in line at the border can last an hour or more. We stand and wait. And wait some more. Finally we are across. Our truck & trailers have made it through, and soon our Transporter(s) will be there to pick us up stateside. We spot them and get ready to board our rigs to head to Los Angeles. Time to fuel the vehicles and eat lunch in the USA. Then it's up the freeway to our overnight stop at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa. Once there we get to call home, shower, do some laundry, and wash the vehicles that are caked with dust and dirt, inside and out! That evening we go out to dinner all together. We celebrate, laugh, and enjoy each other's company. We meet back at the dorms for Worship & Communion and thank the Lord for this wonderful experience. We have begun to see that life is meant to be lived "beyond ourselves". The theme of this trip has finally sunk in...KARIOS. That word means "the right time" from Ancient Greek. In the Bible it refers to an "opportune moment" ...and opportunity from the Lord. We ask God to help us change our mind set. We want to be ready always to do His will and ways. We need to change...to be committed to grow...determined to live and love others and God in new and meaningful ways. We have loved Jesus, given to meet others' needs, and learned and grown personally. We realize the truth of Jesus' words that "in giving, you receive". We answered the call to "GO" and we are beginning to realize that the call doesn't stop here. That life is full of "Kairos" moments we must pay attention to!

June 25, Sunday

Today is a fun day...but also a day to think. We observe the American culture around us and ask some hard questions as we spend the day at Disneyland. We have a great time with our friends on the rides, eating the junk food, enjoying each other's company. We can't help but notice how spoiled most little American kids are in what is supposed to be the "happiest place on earth". But we see little joy in people. We reflect on how we are sometimes just like those little spoiled kids. We feel a little guilty having fun and spending money when we know how our Mexican brothers and sisters live and work. We need to keep our minds and hearts tuned to what is around us and think about what God would teach us. Has this trip changed our priorities? How do we look at needs and wants...poverty and wealth...entertainment and service? What about the people we know in our own communities who have come to the U.S. from Mexico? Can we begin to understand their desires, needs, family situations, and how we can minister to them? Where is the joy of serving we have understood this past week? Lots to think on as we stay overnight and ready ourselves for the long ride home.

June 26, Monday

Load up the gear and hit the road bright and early. We drive north on I-5 to Stockton for an overnight stop at Quail Lakes church. It's a long day of driving and riding with lots of time to think. It has not yet fully dawned on us what it all means. It will begin to really hit us on these hours in the vehicles, and the week to follow when we are back at home sleeping in our own bedrooms. The fatigue now begins to set in, and we sleep a lot on the ride. The fun of being "on the road again" with friends pales against our building experience in Mexico. The fast food all tastes the same. Some of us get cranky with each other. We've started acting like siblings. Which is good and bad. We are bound together in an amazing way because of this trip. We are the "Body of Christ", each with our own gifts and abilities. We can look at each other as annoying and different or see those differences working together toward a common cause: to live lives that server others in the name of Jesus! Remembering that it's for His honor, other people's needs, and our growth, that we have been here for this moment in time. Sometimes cruising down the highway, it's hard to remember that.

June 27, Tuesday

We wake up early again, fuel the vehicles and point them north toward home. We drive the I-5 all the way 'til our home exit. We stop at Rice Hill in Southern Oregon for yummy ice cream, but other than that we are intent on getting home to "The 'Burg"!

We will get to call home on cell phones one last time to let them know when our estimated time of arrival. It will probably be late in the afternoon or early evening. When we arrive at HCC we'll take the time to greet our families, then unload the vehicles and help put away gear. We will be happy to have a hot shower and a home-cooked meal, with time to talk about our amazing experience and what God did through us.

Tonight we'll sleep in our own bedroom.....which is probably bigger than the house we built in Mexico. We are sure we will never think or be the same. We hope we won't. Deep inside we know it will be easy to slip back into the selfish "American way" of looking at the world and people....and our relationship with God and His family. We hope we don't forget and lapse back to the same way of living, the same attitudes, the same values. God can change us if we will let Him....if we remain ready to embrace all Christ has for us to do and be...remembering that real JOY is when we honor JESUS first, place OTHERS needs next, and think to ourselves "YOUR growth", last.

MISSION TRIP REQUIREMENTS

FOR HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULTS

- Students must have **started their Freshman year in High School** by Fall 2022 and be **at least 14 years old** by the date of the trip. *This Mexico Mission is **intended for High School & College-Career Young Adults ONLY.***
- Students participating in Mexico Mission Trip 2023 **must consider HCC their “home church”**.
- Students here are **expected to attend** the **weekly group Bible Study** opportunities with Harrisburg Christian Church EACH WEEK:
 - **Sunday Youth Group** for **High School Students** and **Young Adults** at **6:00pm**.
 - **College/Young Adults: A Midweek Bible Study or 22:5 Group** (if you are in college: an HCC Bible Study here or HCC Guys Study on Bushnell campus.
- Students participating in Mexico Mission Trip 2023 **will ALSO be expected to attend ONE** of the weekly **Sunday Morning Worship Celebrations at HCC**. Early Worship at **9:00am** (Traditional) or Late Worship at **10:30am** (Modern). Remember to **fill out a Communication/Contact Card**...we'll be tracking your attendance.
- **We do keep attendance.** Attendance expectations are the same for Adult Leaders.
- If you are an **HCC College student who lives out of the area**, we expect you to attend a Christ-centered Worship gathering in that area at a church on a regular basis at the same church each Sunday and some sort of Bible Study group.
- Students participating in the Mexico Mission Trip 2023 will be expected to **support HCC Youth Activities**. This includes attending social, outreach, service projects and group activities as much as possible. Your presence is important! We realize that family, school, sports, and work can take a lot of time in your schedule, but this is a good way to make your church family a priority too.
- Participants in Mexico 2023 are expected to **memorize and understand a simple gospel presentation**. More information on this will be talked about at a future meeting. It's a great way for everyone to get a handle on what God did through Jesus Christ out of love for us and all people in this world...including Mexico! **Completing this requirement will be done BEFORE or AT the MAY 21st** Mexico Mission Trip Meeting. Ample time and help will be given to students to meet this important requirement. Requesting help to meet this commitment is always good! Adult Leaders are always willing to help.
- **ALL those participating** in the Mexico Mission Trip 2023 will be expected to **work at growing in their relationship with God**. However, only YOU know how you are doing in your walk with the Lord. Whether you are trying to figure out this “God thing”, just beginning your walk with the Lord, or have been a believer for a long time... understand that **growing in your faith is a life-long process** and something we all need to desire and work at!
- Those participating in the Mexico Mission Trip 2023 are expected to **attend ALL SIX (6) of the MEXICO MISSION TRIP CLASSES**. (They are listed on the next page) **This is MANDATORY!** Classes will be on **Sunday afternoons at 2:00pm**. There is time for you to grab a quick bite for lunch after Late Worship and get back for the meeting. They filled with important information and stuff for you to know and engage with. **See the Time-Table for exact dates.**

- **Absences** must be arranged **prior to the class** with Trip Directors Twila Buhler or Evan Koons, and **only in cases of emergency or illness**. You will need to **arrange your schedule to accommodate these classes!** They are usually scheduled for the first Sunday of the month, except May.

- **MEXICO 2023 CLASS DATES:**

OCTOBER 9	4:00pm – INTEREST MEETING for students and their parents
NOVEMBER	NO MEETING this month!
DECEMBER 4	2:00pm COMMITMENT DAY/FIRST CLASS! Bring your Commitment Form and non-refundable Down-Payment of \$100.00. Not considered a participant until this is paid!
JANUARY 8	2:00pm Auction plans/Tickets distributed/etc.
FEBRUARY 5	2:00pm VERY IMPORTANT AUCTION PREP MEETING!
MARCH 5	2:00pm HALF of PAYMENT DUE
APRIL 2	2:00pm VERY IMPORTANT EASTER CAFÉ PREP MEETING + OTHER STUFF
MAY 21	2:00pm FINAL BRIDGE TESTING & PAYMENTS CHECK-UP!
JUNE 4	5:00pm TENT & TOOL NIGHT BBQ ...meal included!! Fun, Food, Building Skills!

- **TOTAL PAYMENT OF ALL YOUR PERSONAL FUNDS - \$600.00 - IS DUE by SUNDAY MAY 7, 2023.**

- Students participating in the Mexico Mission Trip 2023 **will be expected to place themselves under the authority and leadership** of the **Trip Directors, HCC Pastors** and **HCC MEXICO ADULT LEADERS**. A special **“BEHAVIOR EXPECTATION” GUIDE** will be handed out at the **TENT & TOOL NIGHT** on **June 4** to help students and parents be aware of expectations.
- **Students are required to honor the rules established...**
We will be representing the Lord, our church, our families, and our community as we travel and serve. Our actions should be gracious, respectful, kind, and loving...with each other, those we encounter along the way, and in Mexico. Those who violate the privilege of participating in this important Mexico Mission Trip may be sent home at any time during the trip.
- **Travel home in rare cases of misbehavior** will be a one-way, non-stop airplane ride to the Eugene Airport at the students' Parent's expense. Student and Adult participant safety or the well-being of our Mexican families or AMOR Campsite friends will NOT be compromised by behavior that endangers, embarrasses, or causes problems on this trip. Disciplinary actions will be determined at the discretion of the HCC Pastors and Trip Directors. They will be clearly stated and reasonable.

FINANCIAL COST

Anything of VALUE has a COST.

EACH STUDENT WILL PAY \$600.00
of their OWN PERSONAL FUNDS.

GROUP FUND RAISING \$817.65
& HCC MEXICO RESTRICTED FUND DONATIONS

TOTAL PER PERSON COST is projected at about **\$1417.65** for each person... figured on 28 participants.
(2019 was \$1285.00 figured on 45 participants)

These funds provide for ALL the materials for BUILDING THE HOUSES!

PLUS it also includes all our groups class work, travel, camping expenses, insurances, food, overnight accommodations, Disneyland, International Insurances, etc.

Some items may be donated. Other costs are fixed.

Numbers for 2023 are based on 28 participants. The more people, generally the less per person it costs. Final breakdown could be influenced by the participant number and any changes and fluctuations in the local and world economy.

PER PERSON "BREAKDOWN"

TRAVEL Costs..... about \$206.43 per person

These costs could rise in the next several months. Fuel for HCC Transporters, van, trucks, trailers. Travel Supplies, Parking, Car Wash, Mexican Vehicle Insurance, Trailer needs, Emergency travel fund. (2200 miles)

LODGING ON THE ROAD about \$206.00 per person

Northern California = 2 nights. Gift to church for stay in Northern California - 2 nights.
L.A. Area College Campus = 3 nights + meeting room space, parking.

AMOR Ministries Fees \$411.47 per person

Pays for **all of the House & construction materials**, our **Campsite**, safe **drinking Water and other water** at our **campsite** in Mexico, **Fri. night meal** at LaCocina at AMOR Camp, **All tools** needed but hammers, **Bus transportation** to & from Border and to and from camp to Worksite, **Security** at campsite, **AMOR Leadership**, **AMOR Insurances** etc..

FOOD..... about \$392.00 per person

On The Road meals & Disneyland Meals. Camping in Mexico meals plus snacks. (food & supplies)

DISNEYLAND Admission about \$144.00 per person

Single day, one park, non-profit youth "group rate". Will know more this spring about actual rates.

MISCELLANIOUS Equipment & Supplies about \$57.75 per person

Camping, construction, emergency equipment, travel needs, t-shirts, class materials, fund raising materials.

HCC YOUTH MEXICO MISSION TRIPS ARE SELF-FUNDED projects with some minor assistance from the HCC General Budget each year.

There will be a specific ADULT YOUTH COACH who will be handling all our "on the road" finances.

At home, our HCC BOOK KEEPER, Bob Strutz, keeps track of our financial expenditures.

A full Financial Report is available the end of the summer 2023 upon request. The 2019 Report is also available.

RAISING YOUR PERSONAL FUNDS

WHAT YOU NEED TO COME UP WITH ON YOUR OWN: \$600.00 (of the \$1417.65 Total cost per person)

Personal Funds can come from your summer earnings, part-time jobs like babysitting etc.. Your family may also like to help you with funds. But it is **VERY IMPORTANT that YOU EARN most of your way on this trip**. Your sacrifice and work to make this happen is part of the "giving" and "serving" brings meaning and growth in your life and others.

Doing a "GO FUND ME" page is NOT in the right spirit of this trip. YOU need to "go fund" YOU!
Do as much as possible with hard work and determination. Try your best to earn your way.

PERSONAL "FUND RAISING" Projects:

If you want to raise money to meet your own **\$600.00 personal funds** contribution by selling or doing any project on your own, or with a group of individuals, that is fine. **BUT, IF the money you make is generated by providing "goods or services", it is NOT tax-deductible for the one buying/paying.** So that means if you sell them anything or they get a benefit from it like babysitting or yard work...it's NOT tax deductible for them.

DONATIONS TO HELP:

If someone you know wants to give a donation to the trip, encourage them to do so. Donations made to the general **HCC Youth Mexico Mission 2023 ARE** fully tax deductible. If someone wants to give funds to YOU personally to go on the trip, that donation is NOT tax-deductible. It's an IRS regulation.

Any funding given that is tax deductible is not refundable.

Personal Funds given **by the participant** are refundable if the participant withdraws from the trip by March 15.

There are several specific parameters for tax deductions and giving to support mission trips. If you need more clarification on tax law regarding Mission Trip funding and the IRS, let us know.

A NON-Refundable DOWN PAYMENT of \$100.00 is due when you turn in your Mexico Mission Trip Application Commitment Form **at or before the December 4th MEXICO MEETING.** *(This amount will be deducted from your personal funds needed).* **Give this to Twila or Evan, NOT in the Sunday Offering!!**

We have a "PAY IT EASY" MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN!

We've got an easy way to help you pay for your trip!

SIGN UP for the monthly "Pay It Easy" payment plan.

Here's how:

1. Fill out the **"PAY IT EASY" SIGN UP FORM.** Turn it in with your **\$100.00 Down-payment at the December 4 "Commitment/Meeting"**
2. Make your **"PAY IT EASY" MONTHLY PAYMENT** of **\$83.34** at each **Monthly Mexico Meeting** from January through the meeting in May. You can pay by cash or check. *(No Credit/Debit Cards)*
3. You will get a **"REMINDER" on your cell phone** each month to remind you about the needed payment to be made.
4. If you make EVERY monthly payment on time at the meetings, you will be entered in a **drawing for a \$100.00 DISNEYLAND GIFT CARD** with *those who participate* in the **PAY IT EASY** plan!
PLUS you'll have your trip paid for ON TIME and IN FULL!*

**IF you miss making ANY monthly payment in full, either amount or time it's due, you forfeit your place in the drawing.*

PERSONAL FUND PAYMENT DEADLINES:

1. **\$300.00** of the total personal funds need to be paid by **MARCH 5, 2023 Mexico Meeting**
2. **\$300.00** more is due no later than Sunday, **MAY 7, 2017.**

HOW TO MAKE PAYMENTS:

TURN IN your funds ONLY at a MEXICO MEETING!

DO NOT make payments by putting the envelope in a Sunday morning offering.

You can make payments at the HCC Office during regular OFFICE HOURS...NOT Sundays!

You will get **up-to-date information** at **each Mexico Meeting** of your **account balance**.

You also need to **keep personal records** of what you deposit so there are no questions about where you stand with regards to Personal Fund finances.

ANY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES concerning your payments

will need to be discussed with Trip Directors, Twila Buhler and Evan Koons **BEFORE** the payment due dates if you have problems meeting your payment responsibilities.

Financial Assistance is available ONLY in the form of "sweat equity" work on an **"as needed"** basis.

We have some jobs that may come available for you, but it is your responsibility to contact Twila or Evan. If you turn down multiple jobs, or fail to complete them, you will not be rewarded with funding.

There are **NO "FREE" scholarships or assistance money** for this trip.

YOUR PART IN GROUP FUND RAISERS!

The balance of the \$1417.65 Total Trip Cost per person will be generated through FUND RAISERS with the HCC family and friends.

Because of the careful stewardship of the previous Mexico Mission Trips and the ongoing efforts to carefully plan for our financial needs, **we have some savings in place** to put towards the Fund Raiser needs for this 2023 trip.

Funds from pre-Covid Easter Breakfasts, and monthly contributions from the HCC Outreach Budget help with "seed money" for the 2023 effort. But those funds are limited and can be easily swallowed up by increasing costs for many parts of the trip.

The total FUND RAISER amount we need to have is \$817.65 per student and \$1167.65 per HCC Mexico Adult Leader* making the trip.

* "Adults" are considered those **HCC Mexico Adult Leaders presently serving** in our Youth Program **or veterans** of serving in that capacity. They are **over the age of 25 years** (unless employed as Youth Pastor/spouse) and **able to DRIVE our vehicles**. They also fulfill needed and specific roles of leadership for this trip. They are responsible to contribute **\$250.00** of personal money to the trip, along with other personal resources, skills, and time they donate and provide out of love for youth and this mission.

"Younger" **Youth Coaches under age 25 are considered "Young Adults/Young Adults"** on this mission trip and are responsible to pay their way as any other student would pay.

Fund-Raisers here at HCC are a vital part of the Mexico Mission Trip.

EVERY TRIP PARTICIPANT is required to attend and help at ALL the Fund Raisers.

- Events help build group unity
- Events begin the process of "sacrifice and service"
- Events are a special way that the entire congregation of our church and participants families & friends can participate in the Mission Trip!
- Events help provide a way of raising the money needed for the trip.

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND A FUND RAISER EVENT:

YOU MUST CONTACT Twila Buhler or Evan Koons **BEFORE THE EVENT** and explain the **very** important reason why you cannot participate. It may mean that you will need to add more personal monies to make up for not participating.

The goal is to participate as we generate funds together.

SCHEDULED FUND RAISERS

Mexico Gift Basket

DESSERT BUFFET & AUCTION - February 12, 2023 - 6:00pm, Sunday evening.

It's a great evening of fun for parents, friends, family, and neighbors (Adults high school age and older only) to bid on gift baskets and other "oral auction" items with a yummy dessert buffet and great fellowship. Students will help set up, serve the food & beverages, clean up, and help run the auction.

- **Students** and adult youth coaches need to **SOLICIT (2) TWO GIFT BASKETS or BIG TICKET ITEMS** (It could be a combination) or more **for the auction!**
- **ALL Participants** ALSO need to **SELL TICKETS** to fill at least one table full of people **(10) TICKETS.**
Tickets are \$10.00ea.. Sell them to Family, church members, neighbors, friends etc

The **Dessert Buffet & Auction** is our “**big**” **moneymaker** and a great time too! Some of the set up and food prep will be on the Saturday before. The event this year is on a Sunday evening, and we need to have as many people as we can attend this event to raise awareness of the trip as well as provide the funding we need!

HCC CAFÉ on SUNDAY MORNINGS! **Every Sunday from 9:45 to 10:25am** our Barista's serve an array of Espresso, teas, hot chocolate, and other beverages in our Fellowship Hall area. Encourage folks to stop by and support the HCC Youth Mexico Mission.

SPECIAL “EASTER SUNDAY” CAFÉ **April 9, Sunday, 2023.**

Students will set up (the day before, April 8), and do the prep work. This will take the place of our old “Easter Breakfast” which is no longer feasible with our present Worship times/schedules.

Easter Sunday April 9: Our regular **HCC CAFÉ will be open EARLY and feature SPECIAL TREATS ...** like cinnamon rolls, etc. that morning. We hope to have **Trip T-shirts** etc. to sell, etc. We will be looking for food/grocery donations by “sign up list” from the HCC congregation. More details will come at the April Mexico Meeting

HCC ON-GOING CAN/BOTTLE RECYCLE Water bottles, soda cans/bottles from HCC activities will be recycled to help raise funds for this trip. Any containers that are recyclable for \$\$ should be placed in Recycle Containers in the Kitchen or Fellowship Hall.

Other Fund Raiser Events TBD

PARENTS who are interested in helping with Fund Raiser Events:

There will be a definite need for help to generate the funds needed for the 2023 trip!

Event Coordinators, helpers and ideas for fund raising events will hopefully come from parents of the students who are participating.

HCC does have certain guidelines in place for raising money for church activities.

Ideas for Fund Raisers are always carefully considered.

If you are interested in helping in this way, contact Twila Buhler.

PREPARATION & SAFETY PROVISIONS

1. Our vehicles travel with:

- * **Cell phones** with International Service
- * Paper **Maps** and **Emergency contact numbers**
- * **GPS system** (with Mexico software) & **Satellite radio.**
- * **Fire Extinguisher, Road flares, Hi-way Triangle**
- * **First Aid supplies & Two-way radios**
- * **Extra oil, water, & vehicle supplies**

2. **Adult Drivers are carefully chosen** and have completed mandatory **15 Passenger Van Safe Driving Course**, and with experience driving bigger vehicles. Those who drive the **Transporter/Buses** have **Commercial Vehicle Driver's Licenses (CDL Class C)** with **Passenger Endorsements**. **All HCC adult drivers are over the age of 25 year** (as our insurance carrier requests) and have clean driving records. Each driver shares driving with other drivers in vehicles so no one person should have to drive for more than five hours total a day, with breaks in between. **Not ALL HCC Mexico Adult Leaders will be driving, but all are capable in case of emergency need.**

3. **Vehicles we use are safe and reliable.** Newer tires. Professionally tuned and checked. Updated brakes. They will get a "once-through" right before the trip happens. Several of our Adult Leaders are mechanically inclined and have expertise in auto maintenance and repair. We have both church vehicle insurance as well as Mexican Insurance for our vehicles that travel into Mexico. The Mexican bus company for our transportation to the job sites is contracted through AMOR Ministries and are covered by insurance with reputable drivers and vehicles.

4. **Trip Directors, Pastors, and Adult Leaders on this trip are experienced working with students** and the overwhelming majority have years of experience with these Mexico Mission Trips. Our adults have **relationships with the students**. They **love the Lord and young people**, and they bring special expertise in many areas of need for this mission trip. Exactly how many and which Adult Youth Coaches will be going on this Mission depends on the number of students who go. That will generate the need.

5. **AMOR Ministry Interns and Staff are readily available** while we are in Mexico with any translation needs, procedure problems or emergencies that could arise. AMOR Ministries have led groups into Mexico for over 42 years and are well respected. The AMOR leaders speak fluent Spanish, have worked with the Mexican authorities locally & nationally, and are able to handle most any problems that come up. They are committed to Christ in all ways. We are blessed to be under their auspices & leadership while there. They are the purchasing agent for all the construction tools we will use this year and the house building materials purchased in Mexico to support the local economy. They work closely with the Mexican Pastors who help determine the house recipients and follow up with families encouraging them to consider the Gospel message of Christ and connect to local churches.

5. **We are usually less than an hour from Stateside Hospitals.** Each person who is going on the trip fills out a detailed **Medical Information/ Insurance/Release Form**. NO ONE will make the trip without completed information. Copies of these forms are always with each vehicle and work crew. We also have **Red Cross Certified First Aid/CPR trained adults**. We are well acquainted with how to get to state-side urgency clinics and hospitals to seek professional medical attention in serious situations.

6. **We are ADAMANT about people getting enough water to drink while on the job site!** Each of the participants will have their own water bottle and we will take more extra 5 gallon jugs of drinking water for each worksite for their workday in Mexico. Staying hydrated is VERY important in the heat. One adult leader on each house team will fill the specific job of being the "water watch", checking with each participant to make sure they stay hydrated. All our drinking water is purified and safe.

7. ALL MEDICATIONS (prescription AND over-the-counter) are turned in and dispensed by one specific Adult Leader. They are well-versed in First Aid procedures, keep confidential, meticulous records (*who needs what, when, as well as charting what medication is taken and when*) that they are responsible to keep safe and secure. **WE TAKE MEDICATION, HEALTH NEEDS & CONCERNS VERY SERIOUSLY.**

8. ALL PARTICIPANTS must be up to date on their IMMUNIZATIONS. This includes a ***Tetanus shot in the past five years.*** **Hepatitis shots are encouraged. COVID immunizations/boosters are NOT required.***

Please look at your state issued Immunization Card to make sure you have what you need taken care of, or ask your physician to be sure. We will be advised about the latest recommended immunizations to have before traveling to Mexico from AMOR, the Center for Disease Control and World Health Organization. It is best not to wait until the last minute to make sure you have all your immunizations taken care of. Doctor's offices are sometimes tough to schedule appointments and Tetanus shots can leave sore arms. *Don't wait until the last week before the Medical & Insurance **paper work is due on JUNE 4, 2023** at our "Tent & Tool BBQ" Night.*

9. All participants are required to have an up-to-date **PASSPORT FOLDER or PASSPORT CARD** . This is law FOR ANY- ONE to travel between the US Borders and foreign countries.

- The **PASSPORT FOLDER is good for 10 years** for those **16 years and older**. Passport Folders for those **under 16 years old** are good for **only 5 years** and are at reduced fees. Passport Folders can be used for **air, ground and sea travel** and can be used for **travel between any foreign countries**.
- The **PASSPORT CARD** can **ONLY** be used for **ground or sea travel**, between the United States and Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean area and Bermuda. Passport Cards **CANNOT be used for Air travel including MEDICAL EMERGENCY evacuations** from a foreign country to the U.S.

We STRONGLY encourage the purchase of a PASSPORT FOLDER because of the ***medical evacuation limitations when just using a card.*** No one can be "life-flighted" out of Mexico without a **Passport Folder**. Carefully consider the risk of going with the cheaper Passport Card option in case of a serious medical emergency.

- You can get **Passport Applications** from any Post Office (including Harrisburg). They will explain the process to you so you can order the Passport Folder or Card.

PLEASE MAKE SURE IF YOU ALREADY HAVE A PASSPORT FOLDER or CARD, that it is CURRENT!

- If your Passport is **set to expire within 6 months AFTER** the trip...**it is NOT VALID** for international travel! If your passport **expires any time before and including NOVEMBER 2023**, you need to **renew it NOW!**
- If the Passport was issued to a person **younger than 16 years old**, it is only good for **five years**. Check the **issue date!**
- **To be renewed**, Passport Folders and/or card **require another payment** of the Application Fee, but NOT the Acceptance Fee. (See below)

IT CAN TAKE UP TO A MONTH to process the Passport Application, NEW or RENEWED...so begin the process early!

DOCUMENTS NEEDED to apply for Passport Folders & Cards:

1. A valid U.S. **Birth Certificate or Proof of U.S. Citizenship**
2. **Proof of identity**...(photo I.D. like a Drivers License but NOT a learners permit. See Passport Application for options)
3. Or an **expired Passport**.
4. **Two recent color photographs** that comply with the Passport restrictions (see application). You can get these from Walmart, Costco or other photography places.
5. Appropriate **FEES. Fee schedule along with other information** is located on the following page "**United States Passport Fees**" from the US State Department. Be sure to follow the instructions very carefully.

IF APPLICANT IS UNDER THE AGE OF 16 YEARS OLD THERE ARE EXTRA STEPS TO APPLY!

* **BOTH parents or child's legal guardians must appear** and present birth certificate or proof of US Citizenship, evidence of the child's relationship to the parents/guardians and Parent/Guardian Identification.

* **If only ONE parent/guardian appears you must provide a second parent's notarized written statement consenting** to Passport issuance for the child, primary evidence of sole authority to apply, or written statement explaining the second parent's unavailability (under penalty of perjury)

FOR MORE INFORMATION about Passports go online to: **travel.state.gov/passport**

See "UNITED STATES PASSPORT FEES" Info page IN THIS FOLDER

11. Participants will NOT be using power tools in the building process and every effort is made to ensure their safety "on the job". Experienced builders are on our Adult Youth Coach staff.

12. We have many contacts down the I-5 corridor that we can call for assistance both in Oregon and California. Churches, personal friends, and family of Adult Youth Coaches and church contacts are easily reached, and of the places we stop and stay many are repeat locations and people for convenience and assurance of safety.

13. Harrisburg Christian Church has ample insurance coverage, with a special "**International Missions**" policy purchased for HCC Mission Trips and the out-of-country travel required. Insurance is administered and serviced by our local Pacific Hometown Insurance. For detailed information, please contact the HCC Office.

14. It is important for each participant to have "state-side" Health Insurance. If you **do not have insurance, make plans to secure it before June 2023.** Oregon Health Plan, group plans through employment, or individual plans are sources of medical/health insurance. You will need to provide Health Insurance information on the Medical Form needed for the trip. Many US insurance companies do not cover needs in Mexico, hence the HCC International Policy, but for injuries and medical concerns this side of the border, you need to have your own health insurance from the United States.

15. Our confidence in AMOR Ministries continues to be strong. We receive updates from them on a regular basis about cultural and safety concerns in the areas where we will serve. We have personal relationships with several of their staff. We also get updates from the **US Government State Department** on travel advisories and warnings, working hard to stay abreast of the latest news around Mexico where we will serve.

16. Travel within Mexico is limited to daylight hours and in specific areas and routes that are set up by AMOR Ministries for concerns of safety for our and other missionary groups. We will conclude our daily work before dusk sets in and be back in our campground by 6:00pm. **We do not leave our secure campground once we have returned from the worksite.**

17. COVID VACCINATIONS are NOT required presently for entry into Mexico. As of October 2022, AMOR Ministries requires a "**negative**" Covid test **within three days of crossing the border** as well as a 5-Day COVID-19 Health Log. The test can be any type of test (PCR, rapid, at-home). You will need to take the test **ON or AFTER JUNE 15th**. We will be checking your test result and Covid-19 Health Log at our **Departure Day gathering, June 16.** (*This current COVID procedure may or may not be in effect as time draws closer to our trip.*)

TIME TABLE

Mark your personal and family calendars/phones/computers with these dates!

OCTOBER 9	4:00pm – INTEREST MEETING for students and their parents
NOVEMBER	NO MEETING this month!
DECEMBER 4	2:00pm COMMITMENT DAY & FIRST CLASS! Bring your Commitment Form and non- refundable Down-Payment of \$100.00 You are not considered a part until this is paid!
JANUARY 8	2:00pm CLASS Beginning preparation. Important Auction Plans: Tickets distributed requirements etc.
FEBRUARY 5	2:00pm VERY IMPORTANT AUCTION PREP MEETING! Details, & <u>Auction donations due!</u>
FEBRUARY 11	9:00am Dessert & Auction Prep Day - Check your Auction Teams time & job
FEBRUARY 12	6:00pm MEXICO 2019 DESSERT & AUCTION!! You will be asked to come earlier depending on the job you have for the evening. THIS IS A BIG NIGHT!!
MARCH 5	2:00pm CLASS - Half of your Personal Funds are due: <u>\$300.00</u> (Includes down-payment)
MARCH 15	NO REFUNDS of Personal Funds after this date if you pull out of the trip.
APRIL 2	2:00pm MEXICO CLASS - Easter Breakfast Plans ready!
APRIL 29	TBA Easter Café Set-Up & Prep day!
APRIL 21	TBA EASTER CAFÉ: You'll help at this Mexico fund raiser event!
MAY 7	FINAL PAYMENTS DUE! Payments to be made today at the HCC Office after Worship.
MAY 21	2:00pm FINAL MEXICO CLASS: Deadline for BRIDGE TESTING
JUNE 4	5:00pm TENT & TOOL NIGHT BBQ ...meal included!! BRING: 1. PASSPORT! 2. Your HAMMER. Be ready to practice Construction skills 3. Medical & Insurance Information & Immunizations FORM: All must be completed by this date or the student will forfeit going. NO flip flops shoes tonight. Behavior Expectation Info & HCC Mexico T-Shirts handed out!
JUNE 11	9:30am MEXICO COMMISSIONING SUNDAY! "Mexico Commissioning" at close of early and beginning of late service. Be here, in Mexico T-shirt, no later than 9:40am stay until at least 11:00am.
JUNE 13-15	MEXICO LOAD DAYS – You may be called on to be on a "load team". All group equipment has to be loaded before the personal items.
JUNE 15	6:00pm PERSONAL GEAR MUST BE to the HCC FOYER by this time!! This includes sleeping bags, totes with clothes etc... Carry-on items come tomorrow morn.
JUNE 16	6:30am GATHER FOR DEPARTURE! A light continental breakfast will be served. BRING: * Cell Phone/charger *Wallet & Spending Money * Pillow * Carry-on pack must be size to fit under seat in a vehicle
JUNE 16-27	HCC YOUTH MEXICO MISSION 2023!
JULY 9	SEND IN ALL your photos, etc. to Evan to share at the REPORT/CELEBRATION!
JULY 16	10:30am ONE WORSHIP MEXICO MISSION CELEBRATION (NO Early Worship) Featuring Mexico Mission 2019 Report & Celebration! 12:00pm MEXICAN FOOD POTLUCK! Table service/drinks provided. Bring: Main Dish & salad or

Youth Mexico Mission ADULT LEADERS

The Trip Directors, Pastors, and Adult Leaders on this trip are experienced working with students!

They are or have been working in the HCC Youth Program in various capacities and fully conform to the HCC Youth Coach commitments called for to work with our students.

The majority have years of experience with Mexico Mission Trips.

These adults have **relationships with these young adult students**. They are adults who **love the Lord and young people**. They relish their time with young people and take every opportunity to speak into their lives with the gospel. They are patient and kind, seeing each young person as one who is growing and changing, and whom Jesus loves.

It is not "vacation" for these folks *(even though they use their vacation time from their respective professions to serve on this trip.)* It's a labor of love and "24 hours a day: 7 days a week" for twelve intense days serving alongside our young people.

There are countless hours and days of preparation, and financial commitment preceding the actual trip that each of them put in out of love for the Lord, our youth, and this mission trip!

They each are **willing and able to drive our HCC & rental vehicles**. They must be over age of 25 yrs..

Each adult **brings special expertise in specific areas to make the trip a success:** Construction, Medical/First Aid, Finances, Vehicles, Cooking, Leadership, Counseling, Bible Teaching, Technology/Media, Management & Organizational skills, Translator, etc.

HCC MEXICO MISSION TRIP DIRECTORS for 2023:

Twila Buhler

Evan Koons

HCC PASTORS/ELDERS for 2023 Trip:

Clare Buhler

Evan Koons

Craig Peters

OTHER ADULT LEADERS

We have a strong group of "Veteran Alumni" Adult Youth Coaches who are former Mexico Mission Adult Leadership waiting to be recruited for this 2023 trip. ADULT LEADERS will be added when we know

Just how many High School and College-Young Adults ARE COMMITTING TO THE TRIP and what SPECIFIC SKILLS are needed.

All College/Young Adults participating on the trip **will have leadership responsibilities** and overseen by the Adult Leaders. Age parameters for College/Young Adult participants are **18yrs thru 30yrs** and are **single** young adults.

MISC. TRIP INFORMATION

Students will be given a final **“WHAT TO BRING”** list at the Mexico Meeting in April.

But so you have time to gather the items... be aware that these are SOME of things needed:

- * **Eye Glasses** if you wear Contact Lens
- * Leather **or heavy duty work gloves** (not the “garden glove” kind)
- * **18 gal. Rubbermaid “Roughneck” Tote**, with lid that fits. (**this brand, style & size ONLY**)
- * A good quality **claw hammer**
- * **Sun Glasses** you don't mind losing or breaking.
- * **Hat** with brim to keep the sun off your head, neck & face
- * **Sleeping Bag with Air Mattress** (that can be inflated without electricity! We have hand-pumps)
- * **Small “Carry On” bag** or backpack
- * **HCC will provide the LARGE tents** that will be used and will house 5-6 people each. Do not plan to bring your own tents.
- * **Sturdy work shoes** Tennis shoes are fine, but must be old ones that can stand up under work conditions. They must be closed toe and heel.
- * **Water Bottle** Snap shut top or screw on lid that is attached to the bottle, not the kind with a straw. The easier to clean the better. Some like the insulated styles. Just remember it must fit in the tote with all your gear.
- * **Flashlight** and one set of extra batteries.
- * **Bandana** to put around your neck, head, or to wipe off sweat.
- * **ONE PAIR of work pants**. Light weight jeans or painter pants are great.
- * **OLD T-shirts**. One for each day of work in Mexico. ***With sleeves.***
- * **PASSPORTS**. Start the application process for this early! Required by law for the trip.

There will be a **special MEDICAL & INSURANCE INFORMATION FORM** that will need to be filled out. It is more extensive than the usual forms we use in the youth programs.

If you DO NOT have Health/Accident Insurance, we need to know as soon as possible so we can help you take care of responsibilities for insuring you during this trip.

Exact Mexico locations where we camp and work will not be known until we reach our AMOR contacts just before we cross the border. It could be in the Tijuana area, or west towards the coast near Rosarito, or even east near Tecate'. Sites are carefully chosen for safety, need, proximity to the rest of our other groups construction sites, etc.

The farther inland in Mexico we are, the warmer the temperatures will be. Days can get to 114 degrees Fahrenheit and then cool drastically at night to the 50's or below. We are in a Desert climate. If nearer the coast, the breeze comes up each evening cooling even quicker. When planning, please consider this in choice of sleeping bags, clothing items etc.

Choice of clothing to wear on this trip needs to be made with care. Plunging necklines showing cleavage, spandex or yoga or low-rise “hip-hugger” pants for **girls** are **not acceptable**. Extremely tight or “low rise” pants, or underwear in view, or spandex for **guys** are **not appropriate**. **“Conservative Modesty”** is the best choice while in USA **and** Mexico.

All construction & building materials are purchased by AMOR in Mexico. This helps stimulate their economy and local businesses. Plus the border tariffs can be avoided.

We will more than likely be building homes for Mexican families. But we could be called upon to help build a church building or school.

Students who bring cell phones will need to turn in their SIM CARD the morning we leave **to be put in the Transporter Safe**. (Only a wall charger can be taken. Car chargers are not able to be used.)

Students may call home from our evening stops while traveling on the road during a **limited specific “CALL TIME”** set aside for just that. Students will **not be allowed** to bring their cell phones to talk on, text message, or have internet access except during “call times”. Part of this trip is the experience of self-

discipline and “doing without” things that we are sure we need...but really don't. We want students & adults to engage with others on the trip and have our eyes wide open to everything God would teach us, not distracted by home, the internet, or our phones.

We will NOT be taking DVD Players, any Computers, or Tablets with cell service, etc. on this trip. We are very limited in space for what we pack. We have no provisions for battery charging in the vehicles for these items. And we choose not to police the movies/videos etc. that are watched. This is non-negotiable. **Please do not have movies/tv shows loaded on your devices.**

Video Games, E-Readers, Tablets, and other similar techo-gadgets are fine for the van ride only, but will be **turned off for our time in Mexico**: So, fine for the travel time on the road, but put away and turned OFF while in Mexico. NO INTERNET access will be available.

Your choice of music, games and what you view should be something that you would sit and **listen to with Jesus on the headphones by your side**, knowing He would approve and encourage you to engage with it for your benefit spiritually, emotionally, physically, socially. **Because in reality, He is there with you always!**

We will go on a “technology fast” while we are in Mexico. No power tools, no generators, no “gizmos” for entertainment...and it is good. We will focus our **hearts and minds** on our mission to the Mexican people, each other, and our relationship with the Lord. It's “real”.

Cameras are the ONE exception to the “technology fast” and we encourage you to take them the road trip and in to Mexico! Make plans to record your experience on a camera of some kind. But remember, you have limited space and the dust there is incredible. Have a case for your camera to protect it from the elements and clearly mark identification on it.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND: Harrisburg Christian Church and HCC Adult Leaders ARE NOT LIABLE for LOST, STOLEN, BROKEN or DAMAGE to ANDY ITEMS....BRING them AT YOUR OWN RISK!

You will be given a small **JOURNAL** on the trip that will include our trip **Daily Bible Thoughts**. You are also encouraged to record your thoughts and prayer concerns in it. We will utilize it for our Evening Worship sharing.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING FOOD OR DRINK WITH YOU ON THE TRIP. We have ample opportunity to stop for snacks on the road, meals on the road. Hearty meals are served while camping in Mexico. Extra beverages and junk food only takes up space, makes more “potty stops”, then usually makes a mess, AND invites “critters” of all kinds to rummage through your things!

You will have plenty to eat! All your meals are provided for in the trip fee. Snacks on the road are optional and at your expense. Snacks in Mexico are provided.

A more “detailed” and expanded PACKING LIST is coming at a later Mexico Class...

AMOR MINISTRIES

AMOR Ministries is based in San Diego, California and founded 40-plus years ago by Scott & Gayla Congdon. Both are graduates of Hope International University. AMOR was born out of a passion to reach the Mexican people with the love of Jesus Christ through providing homes for Mexican families in need...AND provide opportunity for youth in the United States to learn what poverty is and that they can help change the world, one family at a time. AMOR now provides opportunities for adults and youth from the USA and western Europe to serve the Lord through home, school, and church construction in Mexico, Central America, and South Africa.

AMOR's goals are the following:

- 1. Provide educational and mission experiences that radically change people.**
- 2. Eradicate spiritual and physical poverty.**
- 3. Impact the future of the church.**

More than **800,000 families in Mexico lack secure, adequate housing.**

That number grows larger with Haitian and Guatemalan refugees and others this year.

AMOR helps groups like ours to meet that need...one house at a time.

"Come Build Hope" is their motto.

AMOR's ministry is effective because of their highly interactive partnerships with pastors of local churches in Mexico, trip coordinators, and their National Advisory Board. They all share a common vision and purpose for building God's kingdom. AMOR has been honored by various colleges and recognized nationally as among the brightest and best of Christian mission organizations.

In the past forty plus years...

- ~ **AMOR** Mexico Mission Trips have constructs over **1000+ homes each year** with over **600+ groups of participants** from the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Australia.
- ~ **AMOR** groups can be **groups** of Middle School students, High School students, College groups, Family Groups, Men's groups, Company employee groups, and even **individuals** who come to build during the summer & fall months plus Spring Vacation.
- ~ **AMOR MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS** will be **building a structure** for a poor family, a needy school, or a growing church. They do more than build. They begin to understand the conditions of poverty through immersion in that culture.
- ~ **AMOR** groups build **only with hand tools**. They live in "**camping**" situations, prepare their meals and experience the same environment that the Mexican people live in every day of the year.
- ~ **AMOR** groups have helped plant, build and expand Christian **churches** in Mexico.
- ~ **AMOR** has provided summer **college internships** with mission experience.
- ~ **AMOR** is a member of **Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability** since 1984.
- ~ **AMOR** continues to **provide resources** for relief work all over Mexico, especially in the border town regions of Tijuana, Tecate', Ciudad Juarez, Puerto Penasco and the Yucatan. **Food Banks** have been established and maintained. School supplies, winter coats etc. are also projects groups can support.
- ~ **AMOR** now partners to serve families on an Apache Reservation in **Arizona, Central America**, and also in poverty- stricken areas of **South Africa and Moldova**, building homes for families.
- ~ **AMOR** now provides a **Discipleship experience and mission Internship** for college age young adults. DNA is a six month intensive "missional" discipleship program in England followed by an AMOR Internship in one of their areas: Mexico, South Africa or Arizona. For more information go online to amor.com
- ~ **AMOR** awards **mission scholarships**.
- ~ **AMOR** has helped **train leaders and Pastors in Mexican churches** as well as underwriting an annual Mexican Pastors Retreat. They assist Pastors and their families with basic needs as well. (Food, clothing etc.)
- ~ **AMOR** has a staff of over **25+ staff** "missionaries" working 365 days a year.
- ~ The **COVID crisis has increased the need** for adequate housing and hope in Mexico.

We are privileged to work with such a great organization who helps coordinate our efforts while we are over the border in Mexico. Clare and Twila Buhler have worked with AMOR since 1989. Bob & Pam Strutz have served and continue to serve with AMOR as volunteer staff on 3-day Builds. Our confidence in AMOR is high.

AMOR MINISTRIES...visit them online at amorministries.com also on Facebook

