

## Mission Trip to Mexico

### Thanksgiving 2009- Information

**What** – Mission trip to Mexico over the Thanksgiving Holiday to share the love of Jesus by building relationships in the community, building new houses, refurbishing existing homes, and conducting neighborhood outreach to children.

**When** – Wednesday, Nov 25<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, Nov 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Who** – Service oriented singles, married couples, and families (generally suitable for children 6 or older). Service areas include: construction, painting, children's outreach, Spanish/English interpreting, food service, medical, and many more.

**Where** – We travel to Weslaco, Texas, spend each night in the USA at a Best Western motel, and travel each morning to Reynosa Mexico.

**Transportation** – Charter bus and/or vans from Plano to Weslaco, vans to and from Mexico each day.

**Cost**–\$550 per adult (based on double occupancy at motel), \$315 per child (age 15 and under) staying in the same room as parents, single occupancy (or single parent with children) is an extra \$120.

Included in the per person cost are: bus transportation to/from McAllen, all meals, lodging, transportation to/from Mexico, and all construction materials (lumber, windows, paint, roofing material, slab foundation, etc.).

**Support** – The most common approach for financial assistance is to mail out support letters soliciting donations. Some Life Groups have also conducted fund raisers and/or helped to support members. Please see the attached sample support letter for ideas about how to write your letter. Also think about how you can use social media like Facebook or Twitter to get friends involved with support. Chase Oaks is a 501(c)3 organization, so if your company matches funds for your contributions to charitable organizations, this trip qualifies. *Support-raising is an area that needs your immediate attention* as it is critical that all monies be submitted no later than November 5th so that lumber and building materials can be purchased and motel and bus deposits can be paid.

#### Typical Work Day Schedule

7:00am	Breakfast, devotion, brief team meeting
8:30am	Depart for Mexico
9:30am	Arrive at construction sites
2:30pm	Return to McAllen
6:30pm	Dinner, evening meeting

**Planning Meetings** – two required group meetings on Sunday, September. 20th at 1pm upstairs in Kidzone and Sunday, Nov. 15th at 1pm in the Legacy Room at Chase Oaks.

**Yes, I WANT TO GO** – secure your participation by completing and submitting the attached registration form along with a deposit of \$100 per family (mail to Linda Rhodes, 3003 Reagene Dr., Wylie, TX 75098) no later than October 22nd. Only 110 people can participate and we expect the trip will be full. Registrations will be processed in the order they are received.

**Passports** – Passports or Passport Cards are now required to go to Mexico. See <http://travel.state.gov> for information about how to apply for a Passport or Passport Card (Passport Cards are cheaper and work for travel to Mexico and Canada only)

**Registration information** - Contact: Linda Rhodes at 972-941-6942

**Mission Trip to Mexico**  
**Thanksgiving 2009**  
**Important Dates**

*Please mark these dates on your calendar*

Monday, August 24th	Information & Registration Packets Available
<b>Sunday, September 20th</b> 1:00 – 2:00pm	<b>Planning Meeting for All Participants</b> <b>(meeting will be upstairs in Kidzone)</b>
Friday, October 9th	Mail support letters
Thursday, October 22nd	<b><u>Registration Form and Deposit Due</u></b>
Friday, November 5th	<b><u>Final Payment Due</u></b>
<b>Sunday, November 15th</b> 1:00pm-2:00pm	<b>Final Preparation Meeting for All Participants</b> Construction Team Assignments, Review Mexico trip plans VBS, and other team meetings in the Legacy Room.
Wednesday, November 25	5:30am - Meet at the North parking lot, behind the church. Park in the gravel lot. Bus leaves promptly at 6:00am.
Saturday, November 28	Depart McAllen around 3:00 in the afternoon, arrive back at church parking lot around 1:00am Sunday morning.

***Attendance at the two group meetings is very important. Please make every effort to attend – these are the only opportunities we have to communicate critical information to you face to face.***

**Mission Trip to Mexico**  
**Thanksgiving 2009 - REGISTRATION**  
(one per family – to be completed by head of household)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (hm) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (wk) \_\_\_\_\_

C,S Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Family Members Participating**

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (wk) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names \_\_\_\_\_ Ages \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Rooming Arrangements**

Check here if rooming as a family, OR

Please specify desired roommates and/or desired rooming arrangements:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Attachments / Deposit / Payments**

1. Please attach a deposit of \$100 per family to this registration form.
2. Please attach a copy of proof of passport for *each member* in you family. These copies are for our records, you must still bring these documents with you when you travel to Mexico.
3. *Payment in full is due no later than November 5th.*

Mail completed registration form along with your deposit by October 22nd to:

Linda Rhodes, 3003 Reagenea Dr., Wylie, TX 75098

For registration help, contact Linda at 972-941-6942.

**Mission Trip to Mexico – Thanksgiving 2008 – Registration (continued)**

**Areas of Service**

Please enter family members name(s) and appropriate notes next to each area of service in which they are interested:

Spanish/English Interpretation  
(note level of competence) \_\_\_\_\_

Children’s Ministry  
(note area of interest) \_\_\_\_\_

Construction  
(note prior experience) \_\_\_\_\_

Medical  
(note training/qualifications) \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Support \_\_\_\_\_

Logistics Support (getting things  
where they need to be) \_\_\_\_\_

Administrative Support \_\_\_\_\_

Other Areas (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Needs/Requests**

Please describe any special dietary restrictions for you or members of your family

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any medical conditions or constraints for you or members of your family

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you are NOT going to use the provided transportation to and from Weslaco, please provide specific details of your travel plans (include method of transportation to and from, flight information if flying, anticipated departure and arrival times). Note: if you plan on flying you should not plan on departing before 6:00pm on Saturday.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CHASE OAKS CHURCH  
RELEASE OF RESPONSIBILITY FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Trip or Activity: Thanksgiving Mexico Mission Trip 2009**

In consideration of being allowed to participate in the trip or activity sponsored by Chase Oaks Church and in consideration of the benefits to be derived therefrom, I hereby release Chase Oaks Church and its present and former trustees, officers, directors, members, employees, agents and their heirs, administrators, executors, successors, and assigns from all claims and liabilities of any kind, whether known or unknown, which arise from or are connected in any way with my participation in the activity.

I recognize that the conditions in some of the places to which I or my child will travel are not of the same standard as the conditions to which I am accustomed. I realize further that there are certain health risks as well as other risks to me and my property, and I enter into participation in this trip with knowledge of those risks.

In event of an emergency, I hereby authorize a leader of this activity, as an agent for me, to consent to: any x-ray examination; medical, dental or surgical diagnosis; treatments, hospital care advise and supervised by a physician, surgeon or dentist (as appropriate) licensed to practice under the laws of the state or country where services are rendered, either at a doctor's office or in a hospital.

I certify that I am of lawful age and competent to sign this Release, and have done so voluntarily.

I understand that this document constitutes a full and complete waiver of all possible claims for any act or omission, including claims for negligence regarding injury or property damages, arising out of my participation in the trip or activity.

I understand that this Release applies to, covers, and includes unknown, unforeseen, unanticipated, and unsuspected damages, losses, or liabilities and the consequences thereof, which result from the matters herein before inferred to as well as those now disclosed and known to exist. The provisions of any state, federal, local, or territorial law or statute providing in substance that releases shall not extend to claims or damages which are unknown or unsuspected to exist at the time are hereby expressly waived by me.

Participant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Mission Trip to Mexico Thanksgiving 2009

### What to Do with Support Checks

One way for you to raise money for your trip is to write people and ask them to support you. This is also a great way for people who might not be able to go on a trip like this, to take part in missions.

For Tax Purposes, contributor's checks should be made out to Chase Oaks Church. *Your name should NOT appear on the check.* They can note "Mexico Mission" on the memo line if they like. These instructions should be included in your support letter. You can then either attach a removable "sticky note" to the check with your name on it or you can put your checks in an envelope with your name on the envelope.

**If your support check does not come from a member of Chase Oaks Church, you** will need to fill out a "Tax Contribution Form" (copy attached). This is something you do *after* you receive the check. Do NOT send the "Tax Contribution Form" out when you send out your support request letters.

**If your support check comes from a member of Chase Oaks Church,** you do not need to fill out a "Tax Contribution Form".

If a "Tax Contribution Form" is needed, please complete it as follows: 1) in the box in the upper left hand corner, write your supporter's name and mailing address, and 2) in the first sentence of the letter write the check number and the amount of the contribution.

Please turn your checks (and "Tax Contribution Forms") into Linda Rhodes as soon as you receive them. You do not need to wait until the final payment deadline. (In fact, the sooner we get them the better as we need to make payments to a variety of suppliers) She will see to it that the "Tax Contribution Forms" are forwarded to the accounting department at Chase Oaks. They will take appropriate steps, sign the form, and then mail the "Tax Contribution Forms" directly to your supporters. Note: the address you write on the form will be displayed in a window envelope and is what the post office will use for delivery. Please make sure it fits within the box and is legible.

Chase Oaks Church  
1700 Gateway Blvd.  
Richardson, Texas 75080  
214-783-8800



Dear Contributor,

We are in receipt of your contribution of check number \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for our Mexico Mission Trip. Thank you for investing in the lives of the many Mexican families that will be affected through this ministry.

Chase Oaks Church meets the requirements of a nonprofit religious organization. (EIN #75-1784045). The only goods or services provided are intangible religious benefits.

Sincerely,

Brenda Nowicki  
Bookkeeper

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please keep this receipt for your records.*

# **Mission Trip to Mexico**

## **Thanksgiving 2008**

### **Packing List**

Bring all of the items you would generally bring on a three day trip – like yourself, your clothes, toothpaste, deodorant, PJ's, brush, comb, underwear, you get the idea. In addition, bring the following Mexico Mission Trip specific items:

- Passport (or passport card)
- Two pairs of work clothes (long sleeve shirts and long pants)
- Work gloves
- Work shoes (closed toed, tell your kids this does not mean flip flops)
- Hammer
- Tool belt (optional, but it will make you look like you know what you're doing)
- Hat
- Camera
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Insect repellent
- Rain poncho or light waterproof jacket
- Personal supply of toilet paper
- Personal supply of disinfectant hand wipes

#### **Site Leader Packing List Addendum**

- Tape measure
- Utility knife
- Saw
- Screwdriver
- Carpenter pencils
- Level
- Pliers
- Adjustable wrench
- Drill
- Chalk Line
- Sledge hammer
- Ladder (6' or 8')

## Sample Support Letter

Dear Barnabas,

I'm excited about the possibility of going to Mexico for three days at Thanksgiving this year to build a house for a family that desperately needs one. I believe the Lord is calling me to be a part of this.

God willing, I'll be going to Reynosa, Mexico and along with my team of 15 people or so, we will build a small house from the ground up in 2 and a half days and give it to a family involved in a church there. This family now lives in a shack built of any spare wood and tin they can find. Most houses have a dirt floor that turns to mud when it rains. We'll be building a solid 12' x 24' house with a concrete foundation for them.

We are doing this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a very big ministry in this community as neighbors see what we are doing and are drawn to our partner church in Mexico to find out about why people would come across the border and give in a way like this. *What a way to celebrate Thanksgiving!*

People will be drawn to Christ because of what they see Him doing through us on this trip. Many people in the past have prayed with one of the interpreters on this trip to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior. That's the *exciting* part!

On the last day of our trip, we have a celebration in the community and dedicate the house to the Lord. We have a fiesta with piñatas, food and music and invite the whole community to the church to celebrate and give honor and glory to God.

The cost of my entire trip is \$550 (and for our whole family is \$1730). That pays for everything, including travel costs and building materials.

I have two things to ask you: 1) Would you consider going with me? 2) If you can't go, would you consider supporting me by prayer and making a donation so that I can go? Even a little goes a long way on this trip.

We're trusting that the Lord is going to send us as ministers to this family that so desperately needs a house. Along with praying for us, please consider either going or giving.

You can send me the funds in the enclosed envelope. Make your check out to Chase Oaks Church. Don't put my name in the message line. Just put "Mexico Mission Trip" and I'll make sure it gets credited to my account. It's tax deductible also. I will send you a receipt that you can use for tax purposes.

God bless you as you pray about supporting me!

Me ☺