



Mexico Christmas Outreach 2008

Important Information

WEATHER

It is usually warm in Reynosa this time of year so it's a good idea to bring: sun screen, sun glasses and plenty of bottled drinking water. However, it can turn cool in the evenings, so bring a light jacket just in case.

FOOD & DRINK

The lunch and evening meals will be provided. You will need to bring light breakfast foods such as, pop tarts, cheese/peanut butter & crackers, granola, etc. Coffee will be served at the hotel each morning by a Calvary Commission host; however you may want to bring your own as well. You will need to bring plenty of bottled drinking water.

HEALTH

DO NOT DRINK ANY WATER THAT COMES FROM THE FAUCETS. It is not filtered as it is in the U.S.A. You will need to bring your own bottled water; the hotel furnishes some bottled water in the room.

The food we serve at the church is prepared according to our specifications. We are very careful in Mexico with lettuce and tomatoes because it is not usually washed as we would in the States.

DO NOT EAT ANYTHING OFF THE STREETS. AMIBAS ARE WAITING FOR YOUR STOMACH! It is okay to consume packaged products like bottled soft drinks, potato chips, cup cakes etc. We do not eat dairy products like ice cream. The food on the street smells so good and it may not kill you, but you will wish you could die if you get sick.

SAFETY

For safety sake, walk with 2 or 3 people at all times. **DO NOT WALK ALONE.** You must let leadership know of any need to be somewhere different than the scheduled activities.

Be careful with your possessions. Keep your passport, birth certificate, drivers license, credit cards and cash in a safe place at all times. When in crowded areas, beware of pick-pockets and purse snatchers. It is better to carry valuable around your neck or waist.

PACKING LIST

Casual dress is appropriate for the entire outreach. Many of the locations we will be in are dusty if not muddy, so pack clothes you don't mind getting a little dirty. We will walk a lot so you will need a comfortable pair of shoes. **Please no shorts except for children under 12 years of age.** Hats are permissible when outside, but we ask that you take them off when inside. The evenings could be cool so bring a light jacket. Bring any personal items that you may need. Towels, sheets and pillows are provided at the hotel.

NEEDS LIST FOR OUTREACH

Suggested items to bring for give-away during the outreach are: beans & rice, individually wrapped candy, new toys (coloring books with crayons & play dough are a good idea), children's shoes, socks & underwear, towels, sheets for twin beds, children's & adult's medicine, dental hygiene products, shampoo, etc. Collecting these items is a good way for your church and family to get involved even if they can't go on the trip. Also, cash offerings for the Josiah & Bethany Children's Home and/or Calvary Commission Church of Mexico would be very much appreciated.

MINISTRY PREPARATION

Our desire is that everyone be involved in ministry during the outreach. Whether you sing, perform dramas, share a testimony, children's ministry, preach or prefer to serve behind the scenes, there is something for you. If your group is going to perform a drama, have a puppet show, sing, etc. it's a good idea to try to do it Spanish. However, English goes over well too.

CULTURAL ADAPTATION

When you cross the border into Mexico, everything will drastically change, the sights, the sounds, the smells... As a missions minded Christian, you will need to change too.

One way to adapt is by learning to **speak the language**. You will have an opportunity to work side by side with Mexican Christians, together expressing the message of the resurrected Christ to their friends and neighbors. Learning conversational Spanish will help you connect with the people as well as send a clear message that you care. A list of common words and phrases can be found on the Conversational Spanish sheet.

When **using an interpreter** look right at the person you are speaking to. Do not look at your interpreter. If there is only one microphone, let the interpreter use it. Use simple but complete sentences. Do not use slang expressions such as, "*I just get tickled pink*" or "*I have butterflies in my stomach*", because it will not translate. You must always be aware of a need to be cross cultural in use of illustrations. Do not use U.S. dollar figures that cannot relate to their standards of living. Do not quote scripture as it may not translate. When reading a scripture, read one verse from your Bible and wait for the interpreter to read it from the Spanish bible and then continue. It will flow better using this method.

Do Not Flush Toilet Paper Down the Commode. There is always a trash basket provided for the toilet paper. The sewer system is different with insufficient pressure and the pipes are too small to handle the paper.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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