

WHY MEXICO?

Mexico offers short term mission's ministry a host of opportunities and benefits. Mexico is also called North America and is often referred to as the United States of Mexico. Some of the benefits that make this country attractive for New Testament gospel work are the following:

- Mexico is known as a religious nation and is very open to Jesus Christ
- Mexicans are a loving and kind people and your trip should be something to remember for a lifetime
- We have a lot of friends and partners in ministry in Mexico
- The culture is rich and very diverse but the needs are great
- Many regions are somewhat impoverished and appreciate assistance and friendships
- It's technologically advanced society with many familiar aspects of life in the U.S.A.
- Travel time is short and relatively inexpensive
- The time zone is usually the same

“MEXICAN CULTURE”

Things Your Host Wants You to Know... Before You Get There!

Be a disciple before, during, and after you are there. Show respect for team leaders and one another.

Their culture is not “SIMPLE,” “BEHIND,” “LACKING,” or “INFERIOR” to ours.

The culture may need to be redeemed but not criticized.

The culture is usable. God can and will use it.

Their culture is not wrong, it’s only different.

God is active in the country you are going to, including the city, town, or village

In third world cultures, take your watch off----you are on God’s time!

Do not always ask, “why?” Look and listen. Do not gossip with other team members.

Do not cut any “side deals.” Always say you’ll take the request back to your team leader and/or church. If you make the deal, then you are responsible, not your team leader. And your leader may not allow you to fulfill the promise. In other cultures your promise is taken as a bonded commitment. So be wise in everything.

Use the host language as much as possible.

Know the work ethic values; what is acceptable for men to do versus what is acceptable for women to do.

Refuse strife. No one can hurt you unless you give them permission.

Do not point out mistakes of local pastors, leadership, or missionaries.

There is no place for romance.

Be flexible. Expect the unexpected. Take joy in surprises, change of plans, waiting around. Take advantage of these times.

Do not refuse hospitality.

Avoid discussions in politics, church doctrine, and comparisons between their country and the USA. The best advice is to follow what Paul wrote, “Brethren, when I came to you, I was determined to know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”

The best way to understand a new culture is by developing friendships with those who live there. Determine to establish a relationship with a national Christian.

Practical Suggestions

Here are some practical suggestions to help you as a representative of both the Lord and our country. Try to **understand** the reasons for customs and habits that seem strange.

Consider climate, religion, and tradition--try to learn why they exist. For example, in Latin areas people do not pick their teeth without cupping a free hand over their mouths.

Who is to say this is not a better custom than the way we commonly use toothpicks? Do not make hasty decisions--avoid quick judgment of the people or food and learn to love the people. This is also true in your dealings with each other and your team leader. Time is the best medicine in a world of problems. In some countries you may find poverty, hunger, poor dress, unsanitary conditions and more--ignore these and LOVE THE PEOPLE. Accept them as they are and let Christ be seen in you.

History & Vision

Our first mission's trip to the great nation of Mexico was in 1996. We had to make a choice as to which of several ministries we wanted to work with on a regular basis. We chose a small church (by the railroad tracks) in Cuernavaca, Morelos. The church is called "Emmanuel Iglesia" and the Pastor's name is Victor S. Hernandez. We have ministered together for the Lord Jesus ever since and have traveled there on approximately 20 occasions. We have also mobilized more than 100 evangelists and gospel workers to join us on these mission's trips over these many years. Together we have preached at crusades, worked in street evangelism, medical clinics, prisons, orphanages, and children's programs. We have remodeled churches, supported pastors and missionaries throughout Mexico. We planted a bible school, purchased a vehicle and a home for future mission's endeavors. We have a heart to plant churches, train leaders and help send Mexican missionaries to the surrounding nations.

We felt we needed to purchase our own home to have a base to work from because of the mounting costs and logistical issues associated with larger teams. Coordination was becoming difficult and we needed a solution. We were beginning to stay in Mexico longer and needed more stability in regard to a consistent central location. Having our own home-base to centralize our work for the Lord will better serve Mexico and enhance our overall effectiveness for the kingdom. Transportation consistency by having a home-base also helps quantify our traveling expenses for more accurate budgeting. Cooking our own food also saves time and money as well as guards against unwanted bacteria. As our vision develops we hope to use the house as a summer youth camp and a site for foreign language studies. We may also use the site for retreats or International Conferences. Another option is to house full-time missionaries from various ministries. We are making this home available to our friends in ministry and to those who just may need a sabbatical rest.

This manual packet is intended to present the home, "**House of the Good Shepherd**" to our partner ministries. Included you will find an application form as well as other information that will prove to be informative and helpful. You can contact our office at 715-247-3000 or 651-295-8825(cell) you will speak to Judy Vaccaro if you are interested in using the base for your ministry purposes. We are committed to a long-term endeavor to the nation of Mexico and we hope you will consider this project for your own mission's program.

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor William Hieb

House of the Good Shepherd



The architecture is representative of historic adobe country houses. Improvements such as new tile roof and improved grounds are bringing this once abandoned house new life.

The facilities include:

Kitchen – workable space with new stove and refrigerator

2 Bathrooms – each have working sinks, toilets and showers (main floor and upstairs)

Dining Room – large table can seat up to 8 people plus a kitchen counter = 14

Living Room – large sectional sofa along with casual chairs and rockers

Bedrooms and Sleeping Accommodations:

Master Bedroom Loft – 2 bunks = 4

Main Level – 2 bunks, & 1 cot = 5

2nd Floor – 2 bunks & 2 cots = 6

Living Room Sofa – 1 Person (only if necessary)

Total Sleeping Capacity = 16

Amenities

House of the Good Shepherd is situated in a gated community with a few of the following amenities:

Olympic Adult Pool

Tennis Court

Community Room

Kiddy Pool

Children's Playground

Good Neighbors

24 Hour Security

Breakfasts Available

(Seasonal)

Housing Rates

Mission Team Rates (per person)

Riverside Ministry Center (no user fee)

Daily Rate **\$12.50 per person**

Partner Churches (\$100.00 user fee)

Daily Rate **\$15.00 per person**

All Others (\$150.00 user fee)

Daily Rate **\$20.00 per person**

Sabbatical and/or retreat rates will be made available upon submission of an application request form.

Estimate for Daily Food Needs

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

Snack

Eating out each meal per day = ~ \$8.00-\$10.00

Group homestyle cooking each meal = ~ \$4.00

Air travel, ground transportation, hotels, interpreters, gifts, restaurants and giving are all extra.

Keep your money safe and in a pouch next to your body.

Directions



About 100 miles South East of Mexico City on Highway 160

Address/Location

Neighborhood: Fraccionamiento los Vergeles de Atotonilco
Address: Circuito Cedros
City/State: Morelos, Mexico
42 miles SE of Cuernavaca, Morelos

Local Sites

Popocatepetl Volcano



Popocatepetl Volcano (towers over Mexico City) has spewed out smoke and ash, but appears to be no threat to populated areas.

The view of Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano in the early morning hours was spectacular and a little frightening for many of the area's 20 million inhabitants. A column of dark smoke rose two kilometers above the crater. Experts monitoring the mountain known generally here as "El Popo" say, "the emissions are part of the process of forming a new lava dome within the crater. They say it is not likely that the volcano will throw ash five-kilometers out from the crater as it did two years earlier."

Still, authorities took steps in 2002 to protect people in the vicinity of el Popo, just in case. Mexico City Mayor Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador started coordinating civil defense efforts immediately after the first exhalation of smoke and ash at about five in the morning, Mexico time. He said he and his team prepared for whatever emergency may have resulted from the volcano's renewed activity.

Experts say there is no sign of a major eruption developing and that, even if the activity were to increase, the crater is far enough away that it would have little impact on the metropolitan zone. However, people living in small villages and towns near the base of the mountain could be at risk. Authorities have established several shelters in the area and are prepared to offer food, blankets and beds to more than eight thousand people if some villages need to be evacuated.

Las Termas Water Park

Las Termas Water Park is located on the eastern part of Morelos, about 45 minutes from Cuautla City within the town of Atotonilco, and this is located right outside our back door.

Las Termas Water Park has for your amusement and comfort: swimming pools with spring water, water slides, restaurant, store of souvenirs, and water springs.



Jonacatapec

From the House of the Good Shepherd, turn left at the complex entrance. At the Y intersection, veer right and go about 4 miles. This is the town where we pay the electric bill. Other amenities in town:

Pentecostal Church: Pastor David & Sandra Hernandez Robles
Key Contact: Rueben & Catalina Guerro Urzva (owner of main hardware store)
Spirit Filled Church: Pastor Carlos & Lucey Garcia Bonilla
(at the Chicken Broiler)

AMMENITIES

Pharmacy & Bakery
Furniture Store
Hotel
Market one block down from the Central Plaza
Telephone Center & Internet Cafés
Cement Suppliers
Public Library
Glass Store
Beauty Shop
Laundromat
Broasted Chicken Restaurante
Notario (Notary)



Tepalcinco de Hidalgo

From the House of the Good Shepherd, turn right at the complex entrance. Go about 2 miles to a gas station and 4 miles to town. This is the town where we pay the taxes.

Other amenities in town include:

- Optometrist
- Market in Central Plaza (large)
- Shoe Store
- Pharmacy
- Post Office
- Bus Station
- Cement Store
- Cell Phone Store
- Pentecostal Church
- Pastor Humberto

PUEBLA

- 1-1/2 hr. drive
- Living Hope International
- Jerry and Suzy McNally
- Vibrant youth ministries
- Orphanage
- Medical opportunities
- Street ministries and more

Xochicalco

- Museum and ruins
- Beautiful
- Educational
- Xochilcalco.com



SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submission Process

Application Form

To apply to use the House of the Good Shepherd, please fill out the Application Form and submit the form, along with a user fee, to **Beside Still Waters Ministry** c/o Riverside Ministries
427 Hwy County Road V V
Somerset, WI 54025
715-247-3000

Liability Waiver Statement

Along with submitting the completed Application Form, please also fill out and submit the Liability Waiver Statement.

Approval Process

RMC Board will recommend to the BSW Elder Board. Then:
BSW Elder Board will give final review and recommendation.

Documentation Checklist from Team

Minors Documentation/Guardian Approval (notarized)

Mission Team Follow-up Status Report Form

BSW Contacts

Pastor Bill Hieb
651/439-1283 (home)
651/295-1274 (cell)
715-247-3000 (church)

Rev. Judith Vaccaro
715/247-3000 (church)
651/295-8825 (cell)
715-381-1224 (home)

APPLICATION FORM

Name of Organization: _____

Name of Senior Pastor: _____ Telephone # _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Contact Name/Team Lead Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Dates Applying to Use the House: _____

Nature of Visit: _____

Plans for Mission Work: _____

Plans for Work on the House of the Good Shepherd: _____

of Adults in Your Team: _____

of Minors in Your Team: _____
(under 18 years of age)

%%

Approved by Riverside Ministries: _____ Yes _____ No

Approved by Beside Still Waters Elder Board: _____ Yes _____ No

Conditions:
