
SUPPLEMENT TO UIM HANDBOOK FOR SHORT-TERM and VOLUNTEER MISSIONARIES

MEXICO

MINISTRY

1. Ministry in Mexico may be manual labor or of a spiritual nature. Work projects may vary from ditch digging and painting to construction of church buildings. Spiritual ministry may include testimonies, singing, playing musical instruments, simple Bible messages, and puppet presentations. More spiritually oriented activities will usually require knowledge of Spanish.
2. Groups of six participants and two sponsors are ideal for each area of service unless cleared by the missionary or national pastor before going to the field.
3. Sponsors should set objectives, goals, and priorities for the group before the trip to assure oneness of purpose. Daily group devotionals should be held with a group leader with an appropriate theme. Time will be set apart for this.

CULTURE

1. Participants should be prepared to respect and adjust to a different value system, different language, different way of making decisions, and a different protocol.
2. Learning some basic words and sentences in Spanish prior to the ministry experience will add much to the experience.

PERSONAL

1. TRAVEL

- ✚ A visa is needed for each person. To obtain one, you need one proof of citizenship: birth certificate (notarized copy acceptable), U.S. passport or notarized affidavit of citizenship.
- ✚ Visa forms will be filled out at the immigration office at the border if the official asks you to get them there, or you might be told to do it at a facility at Kilometer 21 after crossing the border.
- ✚ Anyone under 18 years of age must have notarized letter signed by *both parents* giving the minor permission to travel with the group to Mexico. If the parents are separated, a letter is needed from both father and mother.
- ✚ A Visa, MasterCard, or American Express credit card belonging to the owner of the vehicle entering Mexico, as well as proof of vehicle ownership (vehicle registration) and driver's license of the owner/driver must be presented to the authorities at the facility at Kilometer 21 for a permit to bring the vehicle into Mexico. There will be a charge on the credit card by the Mexican Army Bank for registration of the vehicle. An undesirable alternative is to bond the vehicle there for one-third of its blue book value, to be refunded upon leaving Mexico.
- ✚ Mexican automobile insurance is also required. Public liability and property damage coverage are sufficient. Please make sure you have supplemental insurance if you leave the U.S. Contact the UIM International office if you don't have insurance that will cover you in Canada or Mexico.

EXPENSES

- ✚ Be prepared to provide food and lodging. The missionary will work with you on this, as each situation is different. If your meals are provided by a national in their home, you must either buy the groceries needed or have the money available so that the national can buy the groceries. Bear in mind that these are poor people and unable to supply meals for several people.
- ✚ Other expenses will be gasoline, road tolls in Mexico, and financial support for the project you will be working on.

DRESS

- ✚ It would be good to ask a missionary in the area what appropriate dress looks like. Appropriate dress may be different in urban or rural areas. Ladies may travel in jeans or slacks that are not tight fitting; however if necessary, they must change into a skirt upon arrival at a location of ministry and wear a blouse and skirt or dress both for church and for work. Clothing for church should not be dressy. Skirts must be below the knees. No shorts are to be worn in public.
- ✚ Men may wear jeans for work but slacks and sport shirts for church. Shirts must be worn at all times. No shorts are to be worn in public.

EMERGENCY

In the event of an emergency, UIM has two airplanes and specially trained missionary pilots within three or four hours of our fields of ministry in northern Mexico. Commercial airlines serve the southern area.