

Packing list:

- current passport
- credit card for on the plane if you want to buy anything -- they did not take cash last time.
- U.S. currency in small bills(1's, 5's, and 10's) about \$75 - \$100 per person cash for food when travelling, for souvenirs, and for donating a dollar here, 2 dollars there, when we find a new need. You do not need to exchange to Mexican currency
- bible
- refillable water bottle. Water is provided, but we need our own container to fill from the large jugs.
- flashlight so you don't disturb others when getting up at night
- warm bedding - we are in unheated sleeping rooms, 6-8 people per room. It was 40 degrees our first night. Your choice -- sleeping bag or sheets and blankets.
- optional if you bring a sleeping bag: fitted twin-size bottom sheet or something else to cover the mattress. Some mattresses were fine, but some were kind of rough.
- pillow - some people found inflatable pillows to save suitcase room.
- ear plugs, unless you can sleep through multiple people snoring.
- travel alarm clock - battery powered is best
- Baja shirts -- wear them for travel. Possibly if people know we need it twice, they will want to buy a 2nd short sleeved one so they have a fresh one for the trip home. Kim is planning another order later this summer?
- rain gear? It did not rain when we were there last time, but it could.
- a jacket and/or sweater as it may be cold at night- will want to dress in layers -- 40s at night, 70s and sunny during the day
- sturdy closed toed work shoes-no bare feet at any time
- work gloves
- work clothes and long jeans to work in for one week, no laundry facilities available
If wearing shorts they must be below the knee
No low cut tops, spaghetti straps, and all tops must meet the top of the jeans with no tummies showing.
- a hat for working out in the sun
- one nice outfit for church, dresses or skirts must be worn for outreach ministry (midcalf or ankle length)
- swimsuit (modest, no bikini's) and beach towel
- sunglasses
- sunscreen
- a wad of toilet paper for our travels. Some of the public restrooms were paperless.
- hand sanitizer and /or baby wipes
- long jeans to work in
- bath towel, soap, shampoo, and other toiletries. Remember the blow dryers blow fuses!!!!
- prescription and over-the-counter meds and bandaids
- dramamine, bonine, etc, if you get motion sick.
- camera-YWAM suggested bringing photo album and having *roll of film* developed in town and presenting photo album when their house is presented to them. Not sure if this holds true with processing of digital photos.

** many of us left clothes and our sleeping bags/blankets behind for less fortunate people.

House Building in Mexico

The need:

- The percentage of poor Mexicans is about the same now as it was in the early 1980s – a little more than 50 percent - however the population of Mexico has grown over the same period, from 70 million to 100 million. That translates to approximately 19 million more Mexicans living in poverty than 20 years ago.

(Source: Washington Post Foreign Service, 2003)

- According to the Mexican government about 24 million – nearly one in every four Mexicans – are classified as extremely poor and unable to afford adequate food or housing
(Source: Washington Post Foreign Service, 2003)

- 50% of Mexican families live on less than \$4.25 a day.

8.1 million Mexican families are estimated to be living in over crowded or substandard housing

(Source: INEGI - National institute of statistics - Mexico)

The outcome:

1- It breaks the cycle of poverty in one generation by setting the family ahead economically.

2- Children of parents who own a home are three times more likely to stay in school than those who don't.

3- Physical health benefit: Home ownership reduces respiratory diseases and other sickness - concrete floor vs. a dirt floor.

4- Socio-emotional health: Changes in the parents' and children's outlook on the future. - Much of poverty is the result of the inability to think long term and plan for the future - implicational thinking.

5- Spiritual impact: People are ministered to with the two handed gospel – physically and spiritually.

(For source information go to: (<http://ywamsandiegobaja.org/homes-of-hope/the-need-in-mexico/>)

**Together we can make a difference.
Thank you for your participation.**

Currently there are 1.2 billion people worldwide living on less than \$1 per day

Source: UNCHS

THE NEED – POSITIVE IMPACTS OF HOUSING A FAMILY

Economic Impact In Latin America, households need 5.4 times their annual income to buy a house

– Source: AHS

50-75% of family dwellings are owner built – Source: JCHS Harvard University

30% of all dwellings are made with rubbish – Source: INEGIDebt

Free home helps leverage families out of poverty. Funds are not going to treat sick children and keep them warm, instead they can purchase resources for school & other necessities

Educational Impact - A child without a home is 3 times more likely not to attend school –

Source: endhomelessness.org

A child's poor educational experiences limit future productivity and career prospects –

Source: endhomelessness.org

Stable environment encourages learning. More likely to both attend and stay in school. Health

Impact - 2.5% of children under one die of exposure – Source: La Cronica Mexicali

Homeless children are 2x as likely to suffer from asthma, ear infections, stomach and speech

problems – Source: nationalhomeless.org

Moving from dirt to a concrete floor reduces reoccurring diarrhea by 43% –

Source: nationalhomeless.org

Concrete floor reduces incidence of sickness due to dirt floors and exposure, improves overall quality of life.

Social and Emotional - Children without adequate shelter suffer more from mental health problems such as anxiety, depression and withdrawal. – Source: nationalhomelessness.org

Children are twice as likely to experience persistent chronic hunger and four times as likely to experience delayed development when homeless – Source: nationalhomelessness.org

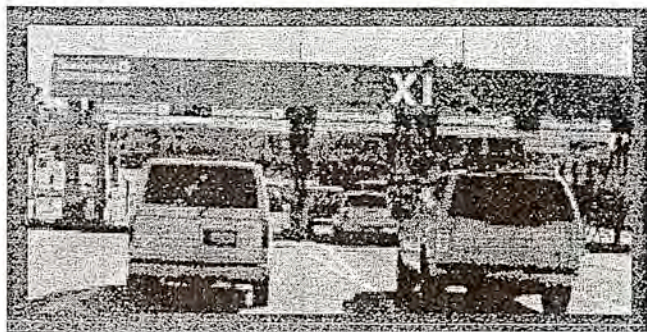
Stabilizes emotional well- being, strengthens home life and marriage as basic issues of survival are eliminated.

Spiritual Impact - Families struggling to keep their children safe & dry each night, feel trapped.

They find it difficult to see beyond their situation. Practical demonstration of God's love

for them inspires a response to want to give back

Is It Safe to Visit Mexico?



The media has been working overtime in recent months spreading exaggerated reports of violence and criminal activity in Mexico, thereby engendering great fear in North Americans about traveling into Mexico. Based on this type of misinformation, many people, both tourists and short-term missionaries are avoiding Mexico.

This is a very sad situation on many levels. The financial impact trickles down through the Mexican society, hurting an already-struggling economy. But, even more devastating is the loss of assistance which mission's teams bring to the poorest people of this state.

We would like to set the record straight: life in Vicente Guerrero where your group will be going, and on the Baja peninsula is normal, safe and calm. People are going about their normal business, going to work and school, shopping and playing. We are bringing teams down at least twice a month and we have crossed the border at Tijuana many, many times in the past several months. We do not go into Tijuana at all....we stay on the main highway. Our shopping at the end of the week is in Ensenada...where five cruise ships a week allow 1000's of people to disembark and stroll around the city - with no problems at all. We have never, ever witnessed even a hint of violent activity in all of our travels. Nor have any of our teams reported ever hearing or seeing anything of that nature.

The spate of crime that the news media is so quick to inflate and report is, for the most part, between drug cartels and between the cartels and police/military. Mexican President Felipe Calderon has pledged to fight the drug cartels. If anything, we are seeing increased police and military presence - which we feel is a good sign. It makes us feel safer. The major areas of violence are Ciudad Juarez across the border from El Paso Texas, portions of the State of Guerrero, and the Mexico City area. Each of these locations is 1500 to 2000 miles from Vicente Guerrero where we minister. **The area of Baja California and in particular the town where we minister (Vicente Guerrero) is in the green (safe) area on the U.S. State Department violence map.**

The U.S. State Department site also notes that, "Millions of U.S. citizens safely visit Mexico each year, including thousands who cross the U.S. land border every day for study, tourism or work."

Please feel free to email us (sto@ywamchico.com) with any questions or concerns. If you would like further reassurance from any of the many group leaders who have led teams to Mexico in the last few months, we can provide you with contact information.

Barry, Asher, and Jill
Mexico Adventures
Youth With A Mission - Chico, California