

# BAJA MISSIONS

CHAPULTEPEC ♦ MANEADERO ♦ SAN QUINTIN ♦ SAN VINCENTE ♦ ZORRILLO  
VICENTE GUERRERO ♦ COLONIA 89 ♦ CAMALU ♦ COLONET ♦ ERENDIRA ♦ PAPANOTE ♦ DIAS  
ORDAZ ♦ EL ROSARIO ♦ NEW COLONIA 89 ♦ EL SAUZAL ♦ PUNTA BANDA

## BAJA MISSIONS 2024 TEAM HANDBOOK

The purpose of this Handbook is to provide as much information as possible about the Baja Missions program and answer questions about travel, service opportunities, plans, preparations, and requirements for the July 20<sup>th</sup> through July 26<sup>th</sup> mission trip. If you have other questions, or needs, please see the following Team Leaders:

**Baja Missions Team Leaders**      **Clint and Scheryl Moore**      **Email: mooreclinton58@gmail.com**

Please read all sections to fully understand and prepare for the work in the Baja. Some information is repeated for emphasis. Thanks to the Mayfair, Monrovia, and Vaughn Park churches, the City of Children, and to Lipscomb University for borrowed text, forms, and information to prepare this Handbook. Sections of this Handbook are from the Baja Missions, Incorporated Handbook provided by the Mayfair Church of Christ.

## PREPARING FOR BAJA MISSIONS 2024

### THE FACTS

- Dates: July 20 through July 26  
Team: Cincinnati, OH, Philadelphia, PA and Coopertown, TN Churches of Christ  
Missions: Evangelism, Benevolence, Construction, Health, Children's classes and activities, & Others  
Destinations: San Diego, California (airport destination – transfer to bus)  
Tijuana, Mexico (border crossing)  
Ensenada (City of Children)  
Camalu, Baja California, Mexico  
Cost: \$600.00 (estimated) per person includes: lodging, most meals, ground trans. (*NOT air fare*)  
Deposit: \$100 deposit and completed application by **March 17, 2024**  
Age: Minimum – must be entering high school (ninth grade) in fall 2024  
Documents: **PASSPORT REQUIRED**  
Skills: Loving, caring, sharing, feeding, playing, teaching, visitation, construction, medical, dental, worshipping, & others  
Luggage: One carry-on bag & one suitcase to be checked (supply box/suitcase will be assigned for check in as second bag – list of contents provided) (50 pounds maximum for each checked bag/box).  
Pack: Jeans/T-shirts/work clothes, sturdy shoes, casual church clothes, light jacket, cap, sun-screen, toiletries, anti-bacterial supplies, Bible, notebook, camera, personal hand tools, favors, extra spending money for benevolence, purchased meals, & souvenirs  
Needs: More information about specific needs for Camalu will be provided in team meetings.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Baja Missions exists to demonstrate the love of Jesus by bringing spiritual, physical and emotional relief to the people of Baja and the planting of Christ's church in communities and villages in Baja where the gospel has never gone. Surprisingly, there is a significant lack of churches along the Baja peninsula, just a short drive from our homeland.

## **MISSION VERSE**

"...go and make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." – Matthew 28:19

## **PURPOSE**

Our purpose is to help U.S. churches and Christians in serving the people of the Baja by utilizing and coordinating various talents and resources of those who choose to serve. The purpose of Baja mission trips is found in Matthew 28:19-20: ***"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded***

***you.***" All mission trips are centered on Christ's command to reach out to the hurting with His love. We believe that Baja presents a unique opportunity to do this, literally in the shadows of America. In these remote agricultural communities, few Americans are seen. When teams of Christians arrive, the Mexican people are curious and interested why these "gringos" would venture in to their world. They quickly discover that our intentions are to help them physically and spiritually. The Baja people are kind and loving, and the receptivity to the gospel is remarkable. The quick establishment of the Lord's church is a testimony of the power of the saving message of Jesus, in a land where there is respect for God, His word, and His messengers. Once they are exposed to compassion, love with no strings attached, and the truth, they respond much like the early church story. We simply ask you to *"come and see."*

## **GOALS**

- Assist local U.S. churches and elderships in planting churches in Baja, in areas/locations where the church has not gone
- Help coordinate and assist mission teams traveling to Baja
- Increase participation in Baja Missions by offering past Baja workers as speakers at churches who have an interest in being involved in the mission of spreading the gospel in Baja
- Oversight of support staff in Baja (headquartered at the City of Children, Ensenada)
- Secure funding for general staff and operations
- Secure funding for benevolent and physical needs of the people of Baja

## **ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS**

- **Passport REQUIRED.**
- Photocopy of your passport picture page in a secure place other than where you keep your passport
- Medical insurance information
- Emergency medical information (allergies, medications, etc.)
- If you choose to use traveler's checks (NOT WIDELY ACCEPTED), make sure and keep your check numbers and contact phone numbers for the company securing those checks in a secure place
- Airline tickets or in the case of e-tickets, a photo ID (obviously, a passport will work)

## **GOD'S PLAN**

God created each one of us lovingly with a plan in mind for our lives. To that end, He gifted us with a unique personality and set of abilities. God, by His very nature, is missional. He originates the mission, and it is a mission of reconciliation. Though it is almost incomprehensible, God established His plan for reconciliation before creation! Paul tells us in Ephesians 1:4, that we were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world so that we might be holy and blameless. God intends for the world to know Him and His character when we manifest His holiness by the lives that we live.

Short-term mission trips give us a taste of how God can use us when we make ourselves available to Him. We get so busy in our normal, every day lives that we sometimes forget what is most important. Use this experience as an opportunity to set into place the kind of spiritual disciplines that will cause you to reflect in the first moment of every day that the only reason to live is to bring glory to God in whatever we do.

Your life will be changed through this experience. Some of you will experience radical changes in terms of the direction of your vocational life. Some of you will decide that more than anything else, you want to be a missionary – spending all of your time and effort telling others of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Others of you will come home with the same sense of what you want to do, but with an increased passion and spirituality in doing it. The important thing is not to forget what God can do through you when you make yourself available to Him – no matter what you are doing.

## **BAJA MISSIONS, INC.**

Baja Missions, Incorporated (Baja Missions) is a not-for-profit entity operating under the oversight of the elders of Mayfair Church of Christ in Huntsville, Alabama. The official name of the organization is Baja Missions, Incorporated. Our federal identification number is 20-0507229. The Baja Missions, Incorporated is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a U.S. Non-Profit Corporation under section 501(c)(3) in a letter dated 9 January 2004.

Donors may deduct contribution to Baja Missions, Incorporated such as gifts, transfers, bequests and legacies from appropriate federal taxes. The corporation was formed to oversee and fund the support of churches of Christ in Baja California, Mexico.

Our mailing address is Baja Missions, Inc. c/o Rex Watson, Mayfair Church of Christ, 1095 Carl T. Jones Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802.

Telephone: (256) 508-0500

E-mail address: [rexwatson10@hotmail.com](mailto:rexwatson10@hotmail.com)

The officers and Board of Trustees of the Baja Missions, Incorporated are:

Rex Watson	Denton Kimbrough	Lee Milam
Kent Pendergrass	Darryl Wortman	

Baja Missions points of contact are:

**Baja Missions Office: 011-52-646-175-8281**

- Pilar Natera, Chief Operating Office: [pilar@bajamissions.us](mailto:pilar@bajamissions.us)
- Lissandra Nieto, Assistant Chief Operating Officer; [lissandra@bajamissions.us](mailto:lissandra@bajamissions.us)
- Alejandro Guzmán, Legal and Special Projects Coordinator: [alejandro@bajamissions.us](mailto:alejandro@bajamissions.us)
- Panfilo Christobal, Media Coordinator: [panfilo@bajamissions.us](mailto:panfilo@bajamissions.us)

## U.S. Contacts:

- Rex Watson, Chief Executive Officer 256.508.0500 rexwatson10@hotmail.com
- Lee Milam, U.S. Coordinator, 256.881.4651 lee@mayfair.org

## Baja Missions is currently set up to do the following:

- The eldership of the supporting congregation provides the oversight.
- Purchase property in the Baja
- Build a church building
- Find a preacher
- Find support for the preacher from a congregation willing to come help
- Schedule visits and work projects to the participating congregations.

All visits are to be scheduled through the Baja Missions office in Mexico. The phone number is 513.783.7340 or email: pilar@bajamissions.us. These dates can also be reserved at the fall Missions Conference. All dates are tentative until the scheduling committee confirms them with the preacher at the location to be visited. Adequate adult supervision is required for all senior high school mission trips. All requests for dates should include the following information:

- Sponsoring congregation and person in charge (team leader)
- Dates of arrival and departure
- Home number and work number of team leader
- Email address
- Mailing address
- Approximate number on trip
- The names of church leaders coming on trip
- Our recommendation is to have a good balance of adults and youth (high school and older)
- What you are planning to do during your visit
- How many of your people speak Spanish

## **CITY OF CHILDREN**

With the devoted work of Stan and Carole Stout, former directions, and Tom Begin, current director, along with Ricardo and Patty Gonzalez, (assistant directors), the City of Children has been rescuing children for over 25 years. These children come from all over Baja, Mexico, leaving a life of abandonment, abuse, neglect or even worse situations. Many churches of Christ, individuals, and other groups provide these children with an opportunity to have a stable environment, while receiving an education, spiritual nourishment, meals, health care and lots of love. Located in Ensenada, Mexico, 75 miles south of Tijuana, teens and adults have the privilege to travel to the City of Children each summer. They provide Vacation Bible School for the children at night, have the opportunity to be involved in work projects, to play with and love these special children. Many Mexican children have been saved, and hearts have been touched around the world because of God's refuge for his children in Ensenada, Mexico. The City of Children has not only taken care of the orphans of the Baja, it has also helped to establish and nourish churches of Christ for the families of the Baja. Through Stan's visionary leadership, Baja Missions was established and continues to grow. It is now managed separately from the City of Children, but will always have the City as its "home base". To learn more about the work at the City of Children, please visit their website at: [www.cityofchildren.com](http://www.cityofchildren.com).

## **BEHAVIOR**

Guidelines are helpful tools. They allow us to identify basic behavioral expectations for all team members and leaders participating in mission efforts. As you consider these guidelines, remember that above all, you are representing the kingdom of God to people who may have little or no exposure to it. You may be the only visible portrayal of a dedicated disciple of Christ Jesus that some will encounter. We pray that you will take to heart Paul's words, *"Live wisely among those who are not Christians, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and effective so that you will have the right answer for everyone."* (Col. 4:5,6 - NLT). Jesus wants our light to shine in such a way that the world sees the glory of God through us at all times.

### **We believe in the principle of praising God in all things, therefore:**

We encourage every team to set aside time daily for praise, prayer, worship, and encouragement. While at times this may not be possible, any team that doesn't pray and worship together is missing out on its greatest source of power.

### **We believe in the principle of unity of the Spirit, therefore:**

Each worker is to understand that he/she is not to promote his/her ideas that could potentially disrupt unity within the team. All will be expected to speak only favorably of other team members, the local congregation, and local workers. If problems arise that need to be confronted, these are to be resolved immediately in a way that manifests love and concern.

### **We believe in the principle of working together in community, therefore:**

Any behavior that disrupts the sense of community within the team is strongly discouraged. This is similar to the principle of unity, but we want to state the importance of team building. Leaders and team members will make decisions and commitments for the team as a whole. No single member may make such commitments for themselves or the team without the approval of the team.

### **We believe that humility is a foundational Christian attribute, therefore:**

We should all remember that we are guest in the hosts' country. With humility in mind, we will be culturally sensitive and never arrogant about "how things are in America." We will be open to learning how things are done in other cultures, appreciating what is offered – such as food (even if we don't like it!), and manifesting a continual spirit of submission to God and others.

### **We believe that our love for one another will show the world that we are disciples of Jesus, therefore:**

We ask you to intentionally think of ways to show your love and appreciation for all members of the team and for all those in the local congregations with whom you work. Please be aware that comments made in jest can be taken in negative ways. Once again, personality conflicts and other problems between team members are to be resolved immediately.

**We believe in being the most effective witnesses for Christ as possible, therefore:** In keeping with our desire to effective witnesses for Christ while in Baja, **alcohol and tobacco use (Cigarettes, dip, snuff, etc.) is not acceptable while with a Baja Missions group.** These are things that are heavily frowned upon by the Church and culture in Baja, and will quickly reduce our effectiveness as ambassadors of Christ in the communities in which we find ourselves. We never can be sure what child or struggling brother or sister is watching and we must, in everything, strive to be the most effective witness of Christ that we can.

**Because Jesus is Lord of our lives, we are subject to Him and the behavioral guidelines of this mission effort, we agree to the following:**

- We will be subject to the appointed leadership of the team.
- We will “walk in His steps” with Christ as our example in all things.
- We will reach out to the people of the Baja and serve them in the name of Christ.

## **CULTURE AND CUSTOMS OF MEXICO**

As in all cultures and people groups around the world, there are generalizations that can be made. This, however, does not mean that they can be used a hard and fast rule with which to approach every situation when interacting with members of that culture. Just as in the United States, many generalizations can be drawn about our culture, we are acutely aware that there are differences depending on geographic area, social status, place of residence (rural/city), level of education, etc. The same is true in Mexico. The information that follows will give you a great idea and general understanding of the Mexican culture that you will experience in rural Baja, but we need to be sure to remember that every individual is different and loved by their Creator!

Mexico is actually called the “United States of Mexico.” There are 32 states in all. It is a beautiful country, rich with traditions and many diverse subcultures. Most of the Mexican people are “Mestizo,” a mix between Europeans (the Spaniards) and the Native Indian tribes of Mexico. This complicated history is deeply ingrained in the Mexican people’s view of reality and is detected in many areas, from their family structures to religion.

### **Family Ties**

Family ties are strong. The father is usually the dominant person, and the eldest member is usually the most respected, thereby controlling the family actions. The mother, however, is a major unifying force and advocate for her children. It is very common for the man to be irresponsible and the wife left to manage the finances, children, and household. The children respect and obey their parents very much. In some ways, the parent-child relationship is the most important relationship, often placed above the husband-wife relationship.

### **Religion**

The Roman Catholic Church has been the dominant church for four centuries. This does not mean the people have an understanding of the Roman Catholic Church or its teachings. It does mean they have a sense of unseen forces in their midst. They thank God for everything, they speak of doing things “God willing” and incorporate this idea in other ways in their language and culture. This does not mean they are Christians, although they consider themselves so, or that they really understand Jesus or God. They turn to the Virgin of Guadalupe, the patron saint of Mexico, as their guide and help. This maternal figure intercedes on their behalf and is often there to care and defend them against the Father, who is angry with them. Meanwhile, Christ, their brother, came to teach them how to suffer and die. These are general concepts that people share. Avoid condemning saints, the Virgin Mary, or the Catholic Church, unless you want to greatly offend non-Christians and lose opportunity for ministry.

### **Time**

In the United States, the clock and the chronology of events dictate people. People are constantly rushing from one appointment to the next, trying to be “on time.” Sometimes cutting off people who have real needs is done to make it on time to the next appointment or activity. In Mexico, people are dictated by relationships and are more seasonal in following up on events and appointments. Building relationship is much more important than keeping a schedule. Rather than moving on to the next appointment, and cut short a conversation, they will prefer to arrive late. From this emphasis on people, tasks are easily put off until tomorrow. For them, this is

right and good. Time efficiency, therefore, is not a high value. However, do not allow this as a “justified” scapegoat for yourself. Focus your attention on building relationships with the people you meet. Make it a point to remember peoples’ names. Allow time for people to arrive late to your church services or other scheduled ministry events. You may say the service starts at 7:00p.m, however many people may arrive at 7:15 or 7:30. Do not be frustrated at this! “Go with the flow!”

## **Hospitality**

No matter how little they have, the people are very generous and will easily give you their last meal or an item they own. Don’t refuse them out of fear of getting sick - you won’t (They drink bottled water also, as their bodies cannot handle the municipal water). Being in a Mexican home is a wonderful opportunity to learn about them and provides a friendly trusting atmosphere in which to share the gospel.

## **Upward Mobility**

When you come to Mexico, you will see many satellite dishes on many poor shacks. In Mexico, the first thing you buy when you’re moving upward is a refrigerator, and then a radio or TV. The government, recognizing the illiteracy of many of its people, established a 24-hour satellite TV new network called “S.I.N.” This is the main mode of communication.

## **Roles**

Males and females have very defined roles in the Mexican culture. The woman’s ideal role is mothering the child in the home. Often times she also works; women in the business world and leadership roles are quite respected. Men are to work and provide for their families, however, they spend much of their time drinking and socializing with other men. (This of course does not include the men from the churches.) They are “macho” in the sense of being proud, valiant, in control, and unemotional. Often when men attend church, they sit or stand in the back. Children are idealized a lot and many people sacrifice very much for their children. Small children are not strongly disciplined or inhibited. The common view seems to be that they are too young to understand what should be done, but parents are very strict with older youth. Don’t be surprised to see young kids wandering around during church services - this is normal. Parents are strict with older youth, especially the girls. They are heavily chaperoned when in mixed company. The girls are expected to maintain reserve in public.

## **Education**

Most adult girls in the villages have a maximum of three years of formal schooling; many are illiterate. The youth may have had the opportunity of only five years of schooling, but they are not unintelligent. They are intelligent and possess real wisdom and a keen understanding of human nature. Remember, these adults, though lacking in education, are truly adult in their actions, outlook and ambitions. They have successfully reared families and are operating in an adult society with all the problems and concerns thereof.

## **Relationships**

Mexican people are very reserved. Team women should not spend much time alone with the Mexican men and team men likewise, should not pay more than polite attention to the Mexican girls. Couples, even married couples, should be reserved in their displays of affection. Holding hands and kissing in public are very much avoided in some areas of Mexican culture and should be avoided by all team members.

**Team men towards Mexican men:** Be sincerely forward. Greet men with a warm handshake and a friendly smile, even if you don’t speak a word of Spanish. It is appropriate upon meeting a male to express thanks for his

hospitality and the hospitality of his country toward you as a visitor. It is strongly encouraged to remember names! Older men should be addressed as “Senor” (Sir) or. When appropriate, “Hermano” (meaning Brother). Boys should be addressed by their first name. Reserve “amigo” (friend) for boys with whom you develop a friendship. Please keep in mind that these are not strict “cultural guidelines” that must be followed. Don’t be afraid of making a mistake. They will prefer that you be sincere with them, rather than acting like a mechanical robot.

### **Attitude**

“Consider others better than yourself.” Bear in mind that you are guests in your host’s country and city. Mexicans take hospitality very seriously and should be sincerely thanked when making an effort to extend it. Although you are there to serve them, the Mexican Christians, while thankful and blessed by your service, also look upon your coming as an opportunity to serve and minister to you. It is very likely that you will be better educated than the Mexicans you meet. Avoid talking down to them as they are very perceptive of this, especially through the language barrier. Try to be conscientious of your facial and body expressions, as these can also convey messages. In Mexico, lack of education signifies lack of opportunity to receive it, not lack of intelligence. Most of all SMILE! A smile can transcend any number of language barriers.

### **Speaking & Communication**

It would help if you learned some Spanish words and phrases before the trip to help you communicate better in times of emergency and need, to help you build relationships, and to minister more effectively. The Mexican people always appreciate it when you make an effort to fit in and adjust to their culture. One way to solve this problem is to make a nametag to hang around your neck (try to have a name that is Spanish and make sure you can say it. (Nothing appears as strange as a person who cannot say their own name). Don’t make up words or attempt to say English words with a Mexican accent (you could end up saying something offensive without realizing it!). Also, be careful of gestures. Hand and arm movements are okay, but you should try to keep them to a minimum. Ones used in the U.S. may not have the same meaning in Mexico. For the Mexican Christians, non-Christian music and dancing are considered worldly and sinful in a culture that has turned away from these things to follow Christ. In situations with Mexicans nearby, they will be unsure that you are really a Christian if you are rocking away to non-Christian music, or even upbeat Christian music (since they can’t understand the words.)

### **Making Promises**

The Mexican culture views promises with much more gravity than does the American culture. Do not promise that you will write or send pictures to anyone unless there is a 150% chance that you will be able to keep this promise upon returning to the U.S. You might ask them to write first, which will then remind you to write back. As surprising as it may seem, it is quite likely that nearly all Mexicans you are introduced to once will remember your name for years to come; especially the children. Do not promise things like: sending them money, building them things, offering them work in the states, or helping them get to the states. We had one situation where a construction owner somewhat jokingly offered a job to a Mexican. This man sold everything he had and arrived in the U.S. to receive his new job. You can imagine how hurt this Mexican was. If you are presented with any questionable situations, please talk with us. Many Mexicans view Americans as a way to get something. Whether it be money, getting to the states, a job, etc. Be very careful not to make promises.



## **Things are Certainly Different Here**

Perhaps the most important thing to realize as short-term missionary in Mexico is that you are a guest in a foreign country. You are the one who does things that seem different. In fact, many things, which are thought innocent or “normal” at home are may not be so in Mexico and may keep people from hearing the message of salvation. A good measuring tool for your actions is this: If you are not sure of what is appropriate to do, don’t be the first or last to do it. Follow their lead as you seek to form lifelong bonds with people of a beautiful culture. As a representative of Jesus Christ, it is critical that we be careful of the impression we create.

## **Interpreters**

Interpreters are an invaluable part of your trip. Baja Missions will do its best to provide each group with an adequate number of translators. In most cases more than one interpreter is available. Groups are encouraged to bring, when possible, Spanish-speaking members from their local congregations to aid in the many interpretations that a group will come across in their week of work here in Baja. There are also interpreters available for hire here in Ensenada, but expect to pay well for their services.

Many of the Baja Missions interpreters are young adults who are either studying or starting a career—often times both. They are very familiar with the goals and beliefs of Baja Missions and also with the needs of your group—many have years of experience interpreting for Baja Missions. While having an interpreter is a necessity for any group, having an interpreter who shares in the beliefs of your group and can provide insight to your group on how to most effectively put its plans into action is a true blessing. For these reasons we ask that you follow these requests when interacting with our interpreters:

- Please notify Baja Missions regarding the number of interpreters needed by your group at least two months before your scheduled trip.
- They will be treated as members of the group. This means that their meals will be provided by the group, as well as their lodging, during the full extent of their time with the groups. Please budget for these expenses.
- Since many are giving up jobs/school to aid serve your group an honorarium of \$200 per week of service is suggested. This amount should not include food or lodging.
- Interpreters are not errand runners. They are more than willing to go with group members to aid them in their tasks, but should not be sent out alone to bring things back for the group—they are not permitted to drive the Baja Missions vehicles.

## **Vehicles and Tools**

In an effort to serve the groups that come to serve the people of Baja, we are happy to be able to provide vehicles and tools. Groups that come are not required to use the vehicles or tools that Baja Missions offers and are free to rent vehicles if it better serves their group’s planning and budget. We have a wide assortment of tools and construction equipment available to be used by the groups. We simply ask that you return the tools in the condition in which you found them. A good way to remember what belongs to Baja Missions is to take a picture of everything you take with you from our storage area to be able to later recognize what tools belong to your group, and what tools belong to Baja Missions. Our current fleet of passenger vehicles includes 3 fifteen-passenger vans, 1 twelve-passenger van, 2 twenty-five-passenger buses, and 1 fifteen-passenger mini-bus. We also have two trailers, 1 single axel and 1 double axel, as well as two pick-up trucks. The trucks generally pull the trailers, but two of our vans are capable of pulling the trailers as well. When scheduling vehicle usage, we

will do our best to accommodate your group's transportation needs. Also, group coordinators need to understand that we have a limited supply of vehicles and we may not be able to provide you with all the vehicles that you request. All passengers riding in a Baja Missions' vehicle must be at least thirteen years old. Once again we ask that you give us four (4) weeks notice regarding your vehicle needs. Below are a few essential requirements for using the Baja Mission vehicles:

- Each group should have assigned drivers before their trip ever begins. These drivers need to be over the age of 25, have a good driving record and experience driving large passenger vans and trucks with trailers.
- At NO point should a person without a valid US drivers license be behind the wheel of the vehicle, which includes any translators or Mexican brothers or sisters. Mexican law prohibits anyone but US citizens from driving cars in Mexico with United States License plates.
- We ask that each group return the vehicles washed and at least 3/4 full of gas. Many times there is less than a day between groups, and out of courtesy to the next group the vehicles need to be returned ready to head back out.
- If your group experiences problems in the field with a vehicle, we ask you to do whatever is necessary to get the vehicle fixed.

Finally, Baja Missions requests each group to maintain an attitude of service, cooperation and understanding when it comes to the use of the vehicles and tools. We ask that you make every effort to leave equipment in the best condition possible. In this way, we will all be better able to serve the people of Baja.

### **Dress**

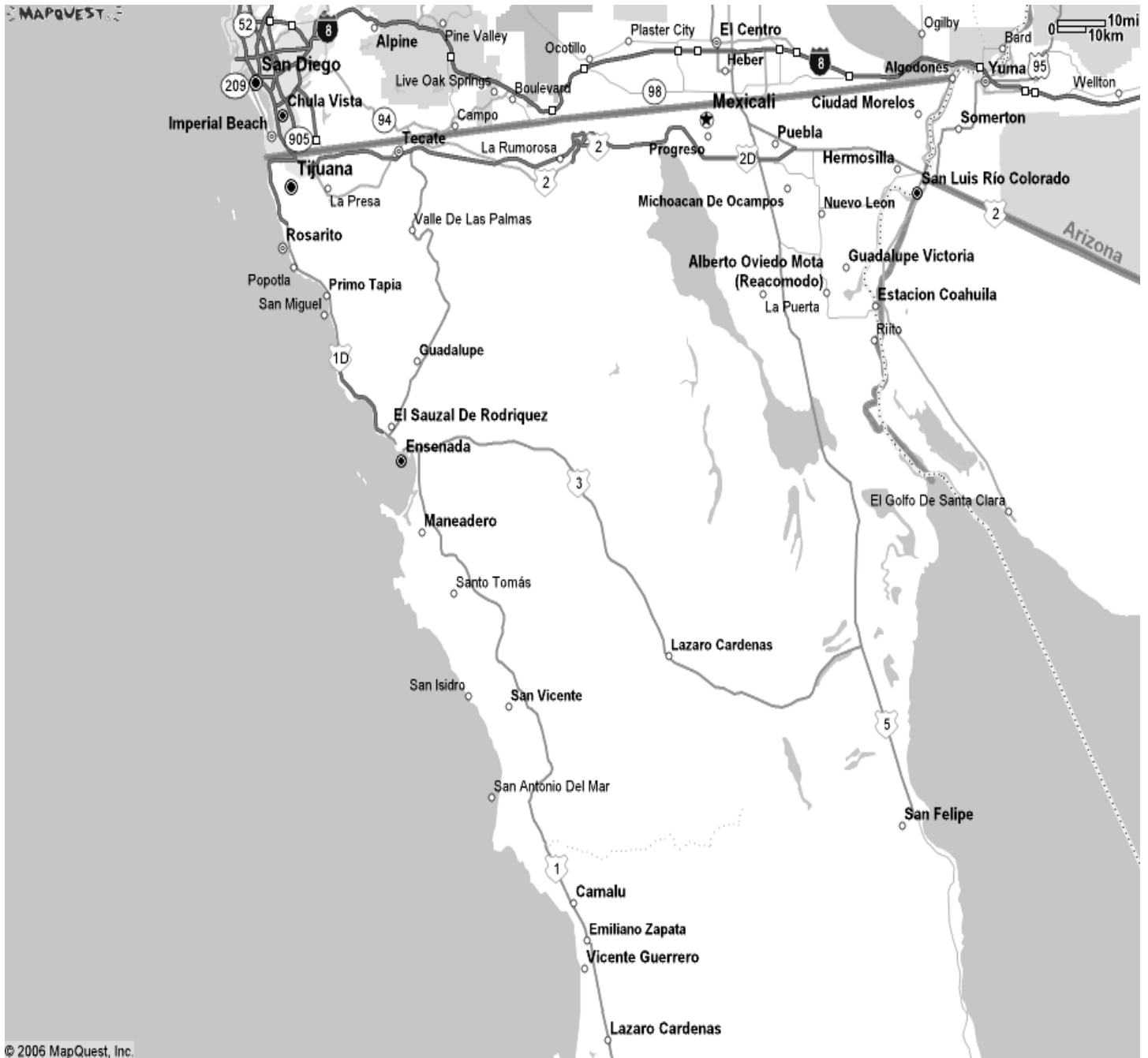
At all times we must be aware that, while in Baja, we find ourselves in a place and culture that is not our own. In everything we do we seek to honor and glorify the name of Jesus. In an effort to be respectful and courteous visitors here in Mexico we need to respect and honor a culture that is not our own. For this reason, we ask everyone who comes on a trip to consider carefully his or her dress. All shorts must be knee length. Skirts and dresses should follow the same guideline. The shoulders must be covered at all times (No halter tops, spaghetti straps, cut off t-shirts, etc.). Again, we must always remember that we are here for one reason, so that people may come to know Christ, and we must always do this in a the context of the culture in which we are visitors.

## Baja Preachers and Supporting Churches

Location	Supporters	Minister	U.S Contact
City of Children	American Churches of Christ	Staff	Tom Begin (951) 600-4676 tom@cityofchildren.com
Porvenir	Granny White Church of Christ, TN Riverchase Church of Christ, AL	Jose & Maty Barbosa	Mike Cochrane mcochrane@ttlusa.com Ron Jackson ronjackson33@gmail.com
Colonia 89	Bentonville CoC, Bentonville, AR Pleasant Ridge CoC, Arlington, TX	Reyes & Chanita Medina	John Dyas jdyas@bencoc.com Richard Swarb (817) 683-9744
Punta Banda		Isai & Erika Cuamba	Dan Lawrence dan.lawrence@tsc.com
Chapultepec	Tigard, OR	Arturo & Irma Cervantes	Barry Galindo barry@swest.org
Manadero	Murrieta Church of Christ, CA Jackson Park Church of Christ, Nashville, TN	Alfredo & Carmen Chavero	Tom Begin (951) 600-4676 Terry Bumpus (615) 228-3445
El Zorrillo	Goodlettsville Church of Christ, TN Campbell Street Church of Christ, TN	Xavier & Yolanda Franco	Bill Eubank bill.eubank@comcast.net Danny Sorrell dsorrell@campbellstreet.org
Erendira	Owens Cross Roads Church of Christ, Owens Cross Roads, AL	Julio & Esmeralda Vélez	Joseph Conwell (256) 714-5354 Conwell.joseph@gmail.com
San Vicente	Woodland Trace Church of Christ, Jasper, AL West End Church of Christ, Nashville, TN	Antonio & Nelly Gonzalez	Stuart Schenk (205) 384-0689 dsschenk@pacbell.net Joe Simpson (615) 968-5320
Colonet	Church Street Church of Christ, Lewisburg, TN	Antonio & Dulce Dueñas	Mike Wiles mike.wiles@marshallcountyttn.com David Jent david@davidjentrealty.com
Diaz Ordaz	Guntersville Church of Christ, AL Moulton Church of Christ, AL	Rafael & Eunice Alvarez	Tim Nichols drnichols@clinicforvision.com Andy White andywhite721@gmail.com
Camalú	Northeast Church of Christ, Cincinnati, OH; Coopertown Church of Christ, Coopertown, TN; Westwood Church of Christ, McMinnville, TN; North Penn Church of Christ, Philadelphia, PA; West Side Church of Christ, AR.	Juan Jose & Flor Medina	Clint Moore (513) 477-7282 mooreclinton58@gmail.com
Zapata	Alvaton Church of Christ, KY	Mario & Lucy Bañuelos	Johnny Cagle (859) 948-4968 jecagle@earthlink.net Kathleen Caegle (859) 948-1104 kscagle@earthlink.net
Vicente Guerrero	Mission Viejo	Erasmus & Luisa Rodriguez	Ed Bush (619) 942-1994 edbush1959@gmail.com

North San Quintin	College Hills CoC, Lebanon, TN	Samuel & Blanca Martinez	Christopher Gannon cgannon@hhi.org
San Quintin	Mayfair Church of Christ, Huntsville, AL	Agripino & Gloria Martinez	Kent Pendergrass (256) 881-4651 Talk2kent@gmail.com Lee Milam lee@mayfair.org
Papalote	Brentwood Hills Church of Christ, Brentwood, TN	Alfonso & Angela Dueñas	Rick Harris (615) 414-5620 ricklharris12@gmail.com
El Rosario	Madison Church of Christ, Madison, TN	Freddy & Alicia Chavero	Frank Rosch FRosch@madisonchurchtn.org
El Nido Tijuana	Johnson Avenue Church of Christ, El Cajon, CA	Ariel & Marisol Villa	

# Map of Baja California Norte



## **U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON MEXICO**

### **Geography**

Area: 1,972,550 sq. km. (761,600 sq. mi.); about three times the size of Texas. Cities: Capital--Mexico City (22 million, estimate for metro area). Other major cities--Guadalajara, Monterrey, Puebla, Ciudad Juarez, Tijuana, Acapulco, Merida, Leon, Veracruz. Terrain: Coastal lowlands, central high plateaus, and mountains up to 5,400 m. (18,000 ft.). Climate: Tropical to desert.

### **People**

Nationality: Noun and adjective--Mexican(s). Population (July 2009 est.): 111,211,789. Annual growth rate (2009 est.): 1.13%.

Ethnic groups: Indian-Spanish (mestizo) 60%, Indian 30%, Caucasian 9%, other 1%. Religions (2000 census): Roman Catholic 76.5%, Protestant 6%, other 0.3%, unspecified 13.8%, none 3.1%. Language: Spanish. Education: Years compulsory--11 (note: preschool education was made mandatory in Dec. 2001). Literacy--91.4%. Health (2009): Infant mortality rate--18.42/1,000. Life expectancy--male 73.25 years; female 79 years. Work force (2008 est., 45.5 million): Agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing--21.0%; services--32.2%; commerce--16.9%; manufacturing--18.7%; construction--5.6%; transportation and communication--4.5%; mining and quarrying--1.0%.

### **Government**

Type: Federal republic. Independence: First proclaimed September 16, 1810; republic established 1824. Constitution: February 5, 1917. Branches: Executive--president (chief of state and head of government). Legislative--bicameral. Judicial--Supreme Court, local and federal systems. Administrative subdivisions: 31 states and a federal district. Political parties: Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), National Action Party (PAN), Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), Green Ecological Party (PVEM), Labor Party (PT), and several small parties. Suffrage: Universal at 18.

### **People**

Mexico is the most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world and the second most-populous country in Latin America after Portuguese-speaking Brazil. About 76% of the people live in urban areas. Many Mexicans emigrate from rural areas that lack job opportunities--such as the underdeveloped southern states and the crowded central plateau--to the industrialized urban centers and the developing areas along the U.S.-Mexico border. According to some estimates, the population of the area around Mexico City is nearly 22 million, which would make it the largest concentration of population in the Western Hemisphere. Cities bordering on the United States--such as Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez--and cities in the interior--such as Guadalajara, Monterrey, and Puebla--have undergone sharp rises in population in recent years. Mexico has made great strides in improving access to education and literacy rates over the past few decades. According to a 2006 World Bank report, enrollment at the primary level is nearly universal, and more children are completing primary education. The average number of years of schooling for the population 15 years old and over was around eight years during the 2004-2005 school year, a marked improvement on a decade earlier--when it was 6.8 years--but low compared with other Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

## **History**

Highly developed cultures, including those of the Olmecs, Mayas, Toltecs, and Aztecs, existed long before the Spanish conquest. Hernan Cortes conquered Mexico during the period 1519-21 and founded a Spanish colony that lasted nearly 300 years. Independence from Spain was proclaimed by Father Miguel Hidalgo on September 16, 1810. Father Hidalgo's declaration of national independence, known in Mexico as the "Grito de Dolores," launched a decade-long struggle for independence from Spain. Prominent figures in Mexico's war for independence were: Father Jose Maria Morelos; Gen. Augustin de Iturbide, who defeated the Spaniards and ruled as Mexican emperor from 1822-23; and Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana, who went on to dominate Mexican politics from 1833 to 1855. An 1821 treaty recognized Mexican independence from Spain and called for a constitutional monarchy. The planned monarchy failed; a republic was proclaimed in December 1822 and established in 1824. Throughout the rest of the 19th century, Mexico's government and economy were shaped by contentious debates among liberals and conservatives, republicans and monarchists, federalists and those who favored centralized government. During the two presidential terms of Benito Juarez (1858-71), Mexico experimented with modern democratic and economic reforms. President Juarez' terms of office and Mexico's early experience with democracy were interrupted by the invasion in 1863 of French forces who imposed a monarchy on the country in the form of Hapsburg archduke Ferdinand Maximilian of Austria, who ruled as emperor. Liberal forces succeeded in overthrowing, and executing, the emperor in 1867 after which Juarez returned to office until his death in 1872. Following several weak governments, the authoritarian General Porfirio Diaz assumed office and was president during most of the period between 1877 and 1911. Mexico's severe social and economic problems erupted in a revolution that lasted from 1910-20 and gave rise to the 1917 constitution. Prominent leaders in this period--some of whom were rivals for power--were Francisco Madero, Venustiano Carranza, Pancho Villa, Alvaro Obregon, Victoriano Huerta, and Emiliano Zapata. The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), formed in 1929 under a different name, emerged from the chaos of revolution as a vehicle for keeping political competition among a coalition of interests in peaceful channels. For 71 years, Mexico's national government was controlled by the PRI, which won every presidential race and most gubernatorial races until the July 2000 presidential election of Vicente Fox Quesada of the National Action Party (PAN), in what were widely considered at the time the freest and fairest elections in Mexico's history. President Fox completed his term on December 1, 2006, when Felipe Calderon assumed the presidency.

## **History of Government**

The 1917 constitution provides for a federal republic with powers separated into independent executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Historically, the executive has been the dominant branch, with power vested in the president, who promulgates and executes the laws of the Congress. The Congress has played an increasingly important role since 1997, when opposition parties first made major gains. The president also legislates by executive decree in certain economic and financial fields, using powers delegated from the Congress. The president is elected by universal adult suffrage for a 6-year term and may not hold office a second time. There is no vice president; in the event of the removal or death of the president, a provisional president is elected by the Congress. The Congress is composed of a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies. Consecutive re-election is prohibited. Senators are elected to 6-year terms, and deputies serve 3-year terms. The Senate's 128 seats are filled by a mixture of direct-election and proportional representation. In the lower chamber, 300 deputies are directly elected to represent single-member districts, and 200 are selected by a modified form of proportional representation from five electoral regions. The 200 proportional representation seats were created to help smaller parties gain access to the Chamber.

The judiciary is divided into federal and state court systems, with federal courts having jurisdiction over most civil cases and those involving major felonies. Under the constitution, trial and sentencing must be completed within 12 months of arrest for crimes that would carry at least a 2-year sentence. In practice, the judicial system often does not meet this requirement. Trial is by judge, not jury. Defendants have a right to counsel, and public defenders are available. Other rights include defense against self-incrimination, the right to confront one's

accusers, and the right to a public trial. Supreme Court justices are appointed by the president and approved by the Senate. (See "Reforms" below for comments on judicial reform currently underway.)

## **Economy**

Mexico is highly dependent on exports to the U.S., which represent more than a quarter of the country's GDP. The result is that the Mexican economy is strongly linked to the U.S. business cycle, and has suffered from the economic slowdown in the United States. Real GDP grew by 5.1% in 2006, 3.3% in 2007, and 1.3% in 2008. Government officials expect the economy to contract by 6.8% for 2009 and rebound in 2010 with 3% growth. Mexico's trade regime is among the most open in the world, with free trade agreements with the U.S., Canada, the EU, and many other countries (44 total). Since the 1994 devaluation of the peso, successive Mexican governments have improved the country's macroeconomic fundamentals. Inflation and public sector deficits are under control, while the current account balance and public debt profile have improved. As of December 2009, Standard & Poor's and Fitch downgraded Mexico's sovereign debt rating one notch, citing fiscal concerns. Nevertheless, Mexico's sovereign debt remains investment-grade, with a stable outlook.

## **Trade**

The United States was the destination for about 80% of Mexico's exports in 2008. Top Mexican exports to the U.S. include petroleum, cars, and electronic equipment. There is considerable intra-company trade. Top U.S. exports to Mexico include electronic equipment, motor vehicle parts, and chemicals. Mexico is the second-largest export market for the United States. Mexico is an active and constructive member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the G-20, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It hosted the September 2003 WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancun. The Mexican Government and many businesses support a Free Trade Area of the Americas. Concerns about trade measures and practices between the United States and Mexico are generally settled through direct negotiations between the two countries or addressed via WTO or North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) formal dispute settlement procedures. The most significant areas of friction involve agricultural products such as livestock and sweeteners as well as cross-border trucking. To address the issues that affect these industries in a manner consistent with the principles of free trade, the United States and Mexico have established technical working groups.

## **Agriculture**

Only 11% of Mexico's land area is arable, of which less than 3% is irrigated. Top revenue-producing crops include corn, tomatoes, sugar cane, dry beans, and avocados. Mexico also generates significant revenue from the production of beef, poultry, pork, and dairy products. In total, agriculture accounted for 3% of GDP in 2008, yet agricultural employment accounted for over 15% of total employment. Most of the population is employed in the services sector (60% of total employment). Implementation of NAFTA has opened Mexico's agricultural sector to the forces of globalization and competition, and some farmers have greatly benefited from greater market access. In particular, fruit and vegetable exports from Mexico have increased dramatically in recent years, exceeding \$4.7 billion to the United States alone in 2009. However, structural inefficiencies that have existed for decades continue to limit improvements in productivity and living standards for many in the agricultural sector. These inefficiencies include a prevalence of small-scale producers, a lack of infrastructure, inadequate supplies of credit, a communal land structure for many producers, and a large subsistence rural population that is not part of the formal economy. It is estimated that half of Mexico's producers are subsistence farmers and over 60% produce corn or beans, with the majority of these farmers cultivating five hectares or less, although the number of Mexican farmers is steadily decreasing as they seek greater economic opportunities from off-farm employment. Mexico subsidizes agricultural production through various support programs, the most notable being the PROCAMPO initiative. The producer support estimate for Mexico is 13% of gross receipts, compared to 10% for the United States.



## **U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS**

U.S. relations with Mexico are as important and complex as with any country in the world. U.S. relations with Mexico have a direct impact on the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans--whether the issue is trade and economic reform, homeland security, drug control, migration, or the environment. The U.S. and Mexico are partners in NAFTA, and enjoy a broad and expanding trade relationship. Since the first North American Leaders' Summit in 2005, the United States, Canada, and Mexico have been cooperating more closely on a trilateral basis to improve North American competitiveness, ensure the safety of our citizens, and promote clean energy and a healthy environment. The three nations also cooperate on hemispheric and global challenges, such as managing transborder infectious diseases and seeking greater integration to respond to challenges of transnational organized crime. The scope of U.S.-Mexican relations goes far beyond diplomatic and official contacts; it entails extensive commercial, cultural, and educational ties, as demonstrated by the annual figure of about a million legal border crossings a day. In addition, a million American citizens live in Mexico. More than 18,000 companies with U.S. investment have operations there, and the U.S. accounts for 40% of all foreign direct investment in Mexico. Along the 2,000-mile shared border, state and local governments interact closely. There has been frequent contact at the highest levels. Presidents' meetings have included a visit by President Calderon to Washington, DC to meet with then President-elect Barack Obama in January 2009, a visit by President Obama to Guadalajara in July 2009 for the North American Leaders' Summit, and a visit by President Calderon to Pittsburgh in September 2009 for a G-20 Summit. A strong partnership with Mexico is critical to combating terrorism and controlling the flow of illicit drugs into the United States. In recent years, cooperation on counter-narcotics and Mexico's own initiatives in fighting drug trafficking have been unprecedented. At the July 2007 North American Leaders' Summit in Montebello, Canada, Presidents George W. Bush and Calderon announced the Merida Initiative to work together and with the countries of Central America to combat drug trafficking and organized crime in the region. In June 2008, President Bush signed the congressional appropriations bill allocating assistance to Mexico as part of the Merida Initiative. Appropriated funds for Mexico under the initiative totaled \$1.35 billion as of December 2009.

## **THE TRIP**

The most successful mission trips have been a combination of these works: revival meetings, Children's classes and activities, health, medical, dental, homebuilding, additions, roofing, building outhouses, constructing fences, distributing food and personal items, distributing clothing and shoes, and additions or modifications to the church building. Our primary purpose is always to serve the people of the Baja and help build the churches spiritually and physically. We will have individual ministry teams focused on the following areas: Evangelism, Benevolence, Health, Children's classes and activities, Construction, and Food. There will be other assignments, but these are the primary ministry areas for all team members to join. We ask that you select one area that is your primary area of interest and skill and spend most of the week in that ministry. If there is some flexibility in the team during the week it may be possible for you to work in other ministry areas also. Please check with the team leaders before you change ministry teams. We conduct our planning in ministry teams so your participation is needed during and between meetings before the trip to be sure we are prepared for the trip when the time comes to leave.

The thing to remember for all mission trips is that you are there to serve and to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Don't let your enthusiasm for the physical task at hand overshadow your obligation to show a Jesus-like heart. Take time to get to know the people and the children. You will find that the Lord will place many opportunities for you to show a Christian servant's heart. Take advantage of these opportunities. Somehow, the "schedule" gets accomplished if we only let God lead us. A few minutes with one of the adults or children will do more to show God's love than any home you could build or wall you could paint.

Camalu is a small community north of San Quintin. It is one of four new areas that Baja Missions identified as a locations for new churches. Land for the new church was purchased in 2004. We visited Camalu in February 2005 to plan to develop the property and help establish the Camalu church. In June of 2005 the minister's home, bathrooms, and a fence was constructed by the Central and Rockvale teams. In 2006 the church building was started, and the construction was finished in 2007. We continue the work in Camalu to evangelize and inform the community about the new church as well as continue the benevolence, health, Children's classes and activities, and other ministry efforts in Camalu. In 2009, a separate classroom building was constructed to house the ever expanding "needs for the NINOS" to have adequate learning space, and the neighboring lot was purchased to allow room for growth and expansion of the church facility. 2010 -2013 has led to the addition of a small computer lab with internet access for students to use for their school studies and continued development of the church grounds, 30' X 20' pavilion/shelter building, the addition of a small working garden using drip-irrigation and the repainting of the church and classroom buildings a "eye catching" blue. In 2015, the focus was on moving the minister and his family from their current home on the church property to a new home across the street from the church. We then converted the existing structure into a larger working kitchen, laundry room and a classroom for the juvenes.



## THE TRIP COST

The main concern that most people have about being a part of one of our mission teams is how they will be able to afford it. The Mission Committee and the elders provide a budget to help reduce the overall cost for all team members. Depending on the length of stay in the Baja and cost of airfare, the mission trip will cost *approximately* \$1200.00. At first glance this seems like a great deal of money. However, this cost does cover everything including your airfare, housing, prepared food, transportation, and supplies and materials needed for various work projects. You will need additional money (generally \$100 or less) to purchase meals at cafes or restaurants along the way or for personal shopping. We do everything we can to keep the costs as low as possible, and **100%** of the money you raise goes toward your trip.

## **PAYMENT DUE DATES**

*The payments below only reflect the cost of the mission trip. You will be responsible for arranging and paying for your own airfare!*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>Other Information</b>
March 17, 2024	\$100.00	Non-refundable deposit due with Application, Assumption of Risk & Release, & copy of Passport.
April 14	\$200.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Deposit.
June 9	\$200.00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Deposit.
July 10	\$100.00 or balance	Final Payment.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Writing fundraising letters is one way many people acquire money for such mission efforts. But before you write your first letter, there are probably some concerns you have about asking people or churches for money. Such concern often times rest in what you think others will think of you. Some will see your trip entirely as a vacation. Others who receive your letters may not care at all. Some may even question your motives.

The following Guidelines have been put in place for your benefit and overall understanding of the Missions Fundraising System that has been proven successful for short-term mission efforts. Please read over the following very carefully **before** you begin sending your letters. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your team leaders. Sample letters are included in the Attachments.

### **Before you begin:**

- ✓ There is a non-refundable \$100 deposit due at the time of application for all Baja Missions trips that must be turned in to your team leader along with the Application and Assumption of Risk and Release.
- ✓ *There can be no refund of money except in extreme cases (death in family, etc.). If you are unable to participate in the trip, the money you have raised will go to your replacement and/or the Baja Missions Fund. It is IMPERATIVE that this is made known when fundraising.*
- ✓ If you receive money that needs to be reimbursed (from a parent, family member, etc.) after other checks are turned in, *it is imperative* that it clearly states on the check **RETURNABLE DEPOSIT in addition to your name and trip name** so that no tax credit will be provided on that payment.

### **Make sure this is in your letters:**

- ✓ All donations should be sent to the following address:

Northeast Church of Christ  
Attention: Baja Missions Team Accountant  
12024 Southwick Ln  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241  
(513) 489-4659

- ✓ All checks should be made payable to the appropriate church and marked with your name and the mission trip location.
- ✓ All donations are tax deductible as a charitable donation

### **When you begin receiving money:**

- ✓ All money **must** be turned in by **July 10th** for the *July 20 through July 26* mission trip. Any money not raised must be covered personally at that point.
- ✓ *Any money raised above and beyond what is individually needed will be added to the Baja Missions Fund for the local congregation.*
- ✓ If you receive a cash donation and the donor would like a tax credit, please turn in the donor's name and address when turning in the money. Any money turned in without a name and address will be deposited as an anonymous donation, therefore receiving no tax credit.
- ✓ Records of donations made will be maintained by the team treasurer and given to the team leader via e-mail every *month* who will then distribute them to the team members.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Sample Fundraising Letters and Sample Thank You Letter.
- Travel Information, Meeting Schedule and Trip Itinerary.

## SAMPLE FUNDRAISING LETTERS

Dear Uncle John,

It was great to see you during Christmas Break. As I mentioned to you then, \_\_\_\_\_ Church of Christ has the opportunity to go on a mission trip to the Baja in Mexico from July \_\_ - \_\_, 20\_\_. Our mission is primarily evangelistic and benevolent in nature. There will be occasions where our team will be teaching in the church and in homes. We will also work in the neighborhoods door to door inviting people to an evangelistic worship on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evening. We will have the opportunity to teach the children and the youth on those nights. Distribution of Bibles and leaflets before and after worship will also be a part of our work. The churches we will be working with are the Camalú Church of Christ (located south of Ensenada, Mexico). We will be staying in a local hotel and visiting in homes while we are there.

Would you be able to help in financially supporting me in the cost of the trip? Our main expense is our plane ticket. My goal is to raise \$1000.00 plus \$100.00 for spending money in addition to the team cost. Any amount of money given will be greatly appreciated.

Should you be unable to contribute financially to this mission, your prayers would be a great help in weeks and months to come.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Hug Aunt Melba for me! Your Sister in Christ,

Laura

March \_\_, 20 \_\_ Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to ask a very simple favor of you. I am planning to travel to Baja, Mexico for the dates of July \_\_ - \_\_. Once there, I will be spreading the word of God through medical missions. I will be carrying priceless medicines and medical equipment to be used in the clinic; assisting with short lessons on disease prevention, child safety and welfare; and teaching Bible stories to the children as they wait to be seen in the clinic. I will be passing out literature about the local church and inviting them to come to worship. Finally, I will be leading the nightly devotional with the teens of the area.

I have many reasons for wanting to go on this trip to the Baja. The most important one is to spread the word of God to all ends of the earth. There is no better way in my mind to spread the word than by medical missions. We will be healing them both spiritually and physically. Other reasons are: I will be bettering my skill at reaching lost souls, especially children. I have been to Baja, Mexico once before and I have wanted to return ever since.

The favor I ask of you is financial assistance to help me pay for the expenses of the trip. The total amount of the trip including airfare, food, lodging, and ground transportation is \$1000.00. I will need another \$100.00 for spending money along the way. Any amount of money given will be greatly appreciated. I want you to know that your money will be going to do great things in the lives of the people in Mexico. Should you be unable to contribute financially to this mission, your prayers would be a great help in weeks and months to come.

Please make checks payable to:

Northeast Church of Christ

Attention: Baja Missions Team Accountant

12024 Southwick Ln Cincinnati, Ohio 45241 (513) 489-4659

Please place my name and BAJA MISSIONS in the bottom left memo section of your check. The checks need to be in by \_\_\_\_\_ in order to meet the deadline.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Juanito

To Brother Jones and the Walnut Street Church of Christ,

As many of you know, I am a member of the Church of Christ in Cincinnati, OH and majoring in Biology and Chemistry at the University of Cincinnati in preparation for medical school. My goal is to become a medical missionary.

I have been blessed with an opportunity this coming July to work with a twenty-person mission team in Baja, Mexico for eight days. Lord willing, we will be working in the Vicente Guerrero Church of Christ, located in the southern section of the Baja. This work is associated with Baja Missions, Incorporated, an organization devoted to establishing and serving churches of Christ in the Baja. Baja Missions is under the oversight of the Mayfair Church of Christ in Huntsville, AL.

Our services in the clinic include anything from providing vitamins for children to treating or bandaging existing wounds to helping a mother with her infant's constant ailments. This service is provided in Jesus' name, so that those who are cared for might turn to Him for spiritual healing. Aside from directly helping the people of the Baja and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, this mission will be invaluable training for my future as a missionary doctor.

We will also be inviting patients to return to the church for worship each day during the clinic and, where possible, to visit in homes to provide food and other needs.

The expenses of this mission will amount to about \$1000.00. About \$500 of this will be used for airfare. The rest will be used for housing and food at the hospital, travel between airport and the church at Camalú, and for necessary expenses during the trip. To date I have received \$XXX of this cost.

If you can help defray these costs in any way, your help would be immensely appreciated. If you would like to contribute to this mission, please make the check payable to the following:

Northeast Church of Christ Attention: Baja Mission Team Treasurer, 12020 Southwick Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio 45241 (513) 489-4659

Should you be unable to contribute financially to this mission, your prayers would be a great help in weeks and months to come.

If you would like to contact me, my phone number is XXX-XXXX. My e-mail address is xxxxx2@xxxx.com. My mailing address is .....

Thank you for your time.

In Christ, Mateo

## SAMPLE THANK YOU LETTER

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I want to thank you very much for your financial assistance for my Baja, Mexico mission trip. The word and spirit of God was definitely spread on this trip. God's spirit was shown everyday in the clinic where we helped over X00 people. We held a four-day clinic in San Vicente, while other members of the team helped build the roof for the church and repaired several houses. Also, God's word spread everyday by the Children's classes and activities with the kids.

As you can see, God truly was shown to the people of the Baja. A report by the trip leader is also in this letter. The report tells of the many ways we affected the people of the Baja on this trip. Please read the report, it will help you to see how much your money really did help others.

Now, I will tell you how the trip affected me personally. I believe, I was helped more by the people of the Baja than I helped them. The people helped me in many ways. The list below describes just a few of those ways.

I was able to see that God's love can be shown in many ways.

I learned the joy of a smile and just how much communication can be done through facial expressions.

I made many friends in both adults and children, even in places I didn't expect. For example, I listened to a girl read a pamphlet. For the rest of the day that girl never left my side.

I gained a greater appreciation for God's beauty, for people with bigger hearts than mine, and for all the things I have here at home.

I found an absolute need and want to learn Spanish. Finally, my heart was pricked for the people of the Baja. Let me explain. I am currently studying youth ministry in school. While in the Baja, I asked the minister if he even knew what youth ministry was. He said he did and would love to have one there at his church. So to make a long story short, I am now pursuing the possibility of being a youth minister in the Baja. Your prayers for my future and me would be greatly appreciated. Once again, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your gracious contribution.

Sincerely, Josh



# BAJA MISSIONS

CHAPULTEPEC ♦ MANEADERO ♦ SAN QUINTIN ♦ SAN VINCENTE ♦ ZORRILLO  
VICENTE GUERRERO ♦ COLONIA 89 ♦ CAMALU ♦ COLONET ♦ ERENDIRA ♦ PAPALOTE ♦ DIAS  
ORDAZ ♦ EL ROSARIO ♦ NEW COLONIA 89 ♦ EL SAUZAL ♦ PUNTA BANDA

## Travel Information, Meeting Schedule, & Trip Plan

### 2024 Family Mission Trip Camalu, Baja California, Mexico

#### Application Due Date & Payment Schedule:

Date	Amount Due	Other Information
March 17, 2024	\$100.00	Non-refundable deposit due with Application, Assumption of Risk & Release, & copy of Passport. You will be responsible for your own air fare arrangements and cost. <b><u>THESE PAYMENTS WILL NOT COVER YOUR AIR FARE!</u></b>
April 14	\$200.00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Deposit.
June 9	\$200.00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Deposit
July 10	\$100.00 or Balance	Final Payment

#### Contact Information:

Clint and Scheryl Moore:

Cell (Clint) 513-477-7282;

Email: [mooreclinton58@gmail.com](mailto:mooreclinton58@gmail.com)

**Flight Information:** You will be responsible for your own air fare arrangements and payment.

You will need to make sure that you arrive in San Diego, CA in time to meet-up with the group.

July 20, 2024

by 12:00 noon

Arrival at San Diego airport

**2024 SPECIAL CONSIDERATION: FOR THE 2024 MISSION TRIP, WE WILL NOT BE ARRIVING BACK IN TO SAN DIEGO UNTIL THE MORNING OF SATURDAY, JULY 27. WE WILL BE SPENDING THE NIGHT OF JULY 26 IN ENSENADA, MX, DUE TO A CONFLICT WITH THE LACK OF HOTEL ROOMS IN SAN DIEGO, CAUSED BY "COMIC CON," WHICH IS A CITY-WIDE EVENT.**

**DO NOT SCHEDULE YOUR RETURN FLIGHT BEFORE 1:00 P.M. (PACIFIC TIME) ON SATURDAY, JULY 27.**

**WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GUARANTEE YOUR ARRIVAL AT THE SAN DIEGO AIRPORT PRIOR TO 12:00 NOON ON SAT., JULY 27.**

Travel Instructions:

- **Bring your passport and driver's license (birth certificate if no drivers' license).**
- Check your personal suitcase and one suitcase or box assigned to you (50 pounds each maximum). You are responsible for making sure the assigned "mission" suitcase or box arrives in San Diego and is loaded on the bus.
- One carry-on bag is allowed. NO sharp objects or other un-allowed items (check with airline) in your carry-on bag.
- Arrive at the gate 45 minutes before flight time and check in with the team.
- Stay with the team for all meeting points and times. Use the "buddy system" so that someone knows where you are.
- Suggestions for packing are: Jeans/T-shirts/work clothes, casual church clothes, light jacket, cap, sun-screen, sun glasses, toiletries, personal medicine, anti-bacterial supplies, Bible, notebook, camera, personal hand tools, favors, extra spending money for benevolence, purchased meals, & souvenirs.
- **IF YOU ARE LATE AND MISS THE FLIGHT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN TRANSPORTATION, AT YOUR COST. THE TEAM CANNOT WAIT FOR YOU!!!**

# Pre-Trip, Team Meeting Schedule

## **Sunday, March 17 – Team Meeting (*All Applications and First \$100.00 Deposit Due*)**

- 1) Pray for the people in the Baja; the churches, ministers, members, families; the Camalu church; & our trip
- 2) Handout & discuss Baja Mission Handbook & Travel Schedule
- 3) Discuss Applications & Passports
- 4) Deposit payment status & team count/names
- 5) Ministry group assignment / meetings:
  - a) Food preparation – mission team breakfast and lunch
  - b) Benevolence
  - c) Construction
  - d) Health Clinic
  - e) Children’s classes and activities
  - f) Evangelism

## **Sunday, April 14 – Team Meeting (*Second \$200.00 payment Due*)**

- 1) Pray for the people in the Baja; the churches, ministers, members, families; the Camalu church; & our trip
- 2) Handout & discuss Mission Plan & Travel Information
- 3) Discuss Applications & Passports
- 4) Deposit payment status & team count/names
- 5) Packing & luggage plan
- 6) Ministry group meetings:
  - a) Food preparation– mission team breakfast and lunch
  - b) Benevolence
  - c) Construction
  - d) Health Clinic
  - e) Children’s classes and activities
  - f) Evangelism

## **Sunday, June 9 – Team Meeting (*Third \$200.00 payment Due*)**

- 1) Pray for the people in the Baja; the churches, ministers, members, families; the Camalu church; & our trip
- 2) Payment status & team count/names
- 3) Discuss & decide on requests from the congregation – clothes, health/medical supplies, Children’s classes and activities supplies, empty suitcases, and special contribution
- 4) Ministry group meetings:
  - a) Food preparation – mission team breakfast and lunch
  - b) Benevolence
  - c) Construction
  - d) Health Clinic
  - e) Children’s classes and activities
  - b) Evangelism

## **Tuesday, July 10 –Team Meeting - (*Final \$100.00 or balance payment Due*)**

- 1) Pray for the people in the Baja; the churches, ministers, members, families; the new Camalu church; & our trip
- 2) Status of requests from the congregation – clothes, health/medical supplies, Children’s classes and activities supplies, empty suitcases, and special contribution
- 3) Hand out T-shirts
- 4) Group meetings:
  - a) Food preparation – mission team breakfast and lunch
  - b) Benevolence
  - c) Construction
  - d) Health Clinic
  - e) Children’s classes and activities
  - f) Evangelism

# Camalu' Baja Missions Team Itinerary 2024

## *Daily Schedule: Saturday, July 20rd through Saturday, July27th*

### Saturday, July 20 – Travel (Please take note of the significant changes to transportation)

No later than

12 noon Arrive in San Diego airport meet up with group at Southwest baggage claim Terminal 1.  
12:30 p.m. Depart San Diego airport on bus and travel across border to Ensenada, B.C. MX  
3:30 p.m. Stop for dinner at food court by Walmart at Little America  
4:30 p.m. Depart for Camalu on bus  
7:30 p.m. Arrive in Camalu and transfer to vans at Pemex – Dinner at the Church  
8:30 p.m. Depart for Pirates Cove Hotel

### Sunday, July 21 – Worship at Camalu

8:00 a.m. Depart for church  
8:15 a.m. Breakfast at church  
9:00 a.m. Set up for church  
10:00 a.m. Worship with our brothers and sisters  
12:00 p.m. Lunch at church  
2:00 p.m. Setup at church for weekday ministries  
4:00 p.m. Return to Hotel  
5:00 p.m. Dinner at Hotel  
6:15 p.m. Vans depart for church  
6:30 p.m. Adult/Children's classes and activities and worship  
9:00 p.m. Team devotional at hotel

### Monday, July 22 – Mission Day 1

8:00 a.m. Vans depart to church  
8:15 a.m. Breakfast at church  
8:45 a.m. Morning devotional  
9:00 a.m. Prepare for & begin ministry efforts  
12:00 noon Lunch at church  
3:30 p.m. Work stops to clean & prepare church site for worship  
4:00 p.m. Preparations for dinner begin and vans depart church for hotel  
5:15 p.m. Vans depart hotel for church  
5:30 p.m. Dinner at church  
6:30 p.m. Set up for evening classes begins  
7:00 p.m. Adult/Children's classes and activities and worship  
9:00 p.m. Team devotional at hotel

### Tuesday, July 23 – Mission Day 2

8:00 a.m. Vans depart to church  
8:15 a.m. Breakfast at church  
8:45 a.m. Morning devotional  
9:00 a.m. Prepare for & begin ministry efforts  
12:00 noon Lunch at church  
3:30 p.m. Work stops to clean & prepare church site for worship  
4:00 p.m. Preparations for dinner begin and vans depart church for hotel  
5:15 p.m. Vans depart hotel for church  
5:30 p.m. Dinner at church  
6:30 p.m. Set up for evening classes begins  
7:00 p.m. Adult/Children's classes and activities and worship  
9:00 p.m. Team devotional at hotel

### Wednesday, July 24 – Mission Day 3

8:00 a.m. Vans depart to church  
8:15 a.m. Breakfast at church  
8:45 a.m. Morning devotional  
9:00 a.m. Prepare for & begin ministry efforts  
12:00 noon Lunch at church  
3:30 p.m. Work stops to clean & prepare church site for worship  
4:00 p.m. Preparations for dinner begin and vans depart church for hotel  
5:15 p.m. Vans depart hotel for church  
5:30 p.m. Dinner at church  
6:30 p.m. Set up for evening classes begins  
7:00 p.m. Adult/Children's classes and activities and worship  
9:00 p.m. Team devotional at hotel

### Thursday, August 25 – Mission Day 4

8:00 a.m. Vans depart to church  
8:15 a.m. Breakfast at church  
8:45 a.m. Morning devotional  
9:00 a.m. Prepare for & begin ministry efforts  
12:00 noon Lunch at church  
3:30 p.m. Work stops to clean & prepare church site for worship  
4:00 p.m. Preparations for dinner begin and vans depart church for hotel  
5:15 p.m. Vans depart hotel for church  
5:30 p.m. Dinner at church  
6:30 p.m. Set up for evening classes begins  
7:00 p.m. Adult/Children's classes and activities and worship  
9:00 p.m. Team devotional at hotel

### Friday, July 26 – Travel (Please take note of the significant changes to transportation and hotel)

7:00 a.m. Depart hotel – Pirates Cove  
7:15 a.m. Breakfast at church  
8:30 a.m. Catch bus at the Pemex in Camalu and depart to Ensenada  
12:00 p.m. Lunch and shopping on your own in Ensenada  
3:00 p.m. Check in at the Holiday Inn Express, Ensenada Centro

### Saturday, July 27 – Travel (Please take note of the significant changes to transportation and hotel)

6:00 a.m. Breakfast at the Ensenada hotel  
7:00 a.m. Board bus for travel to San Diego border crossing  
9:00 a.m. Anticipated arrival at the San Diego border crossing  
12:00 noon Anticipated arrival at the San Diego airport