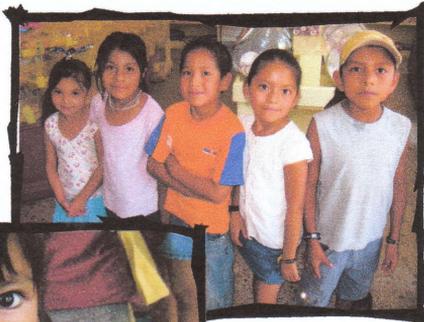


TAPESTRIES OF LIFE



**YOUR WORK BOOK
FOR YOUR
MISSION TRIP**

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Welcome

Thank you for choosing Tapestries Of Life Ministries, Inc. (TLM) for your Mission outreach. We are so excited that our Lord Jesus has opened your heart to be a vital part of His ministry in Mexico. May the Lord bless you as you begin to embark on a great missions adventure.

TLM provides many ways for people to have "Hands On" involvement in our mission outreach to Mexico. Mission Groups, Youth Groups, Churches, and Individuals

The Beginning

TLM was birthed in the hearts of Steven, Cathy, Mark, Amanda, and Danny Brewer, by Our Founder Jesus Christ. Steven is an ordained Pastor with a BS degree in Pastoral Ministries and in Mission Aviation.

TLM was incorporated in 1988 in the State of Texas, and also in Mexico in 1993, as an International Orphanage and Adoption Agency; exclusively for Charitable Purposes. It is a Non-Profit 501 © (3) Public Organization.

The Vision

To Establish a Christian Orphanage that will house homeless children and children from destitute families, until they can adequately care for their own. This sanctuary will administer to the essential health, education, and spiritual needs of the children. The children that are legally adoptable will be placed in qualified Christian homes.

The Goals

TLM has 27 acres of land in Guadalupe, Mexico. It is 10 miles from the United States border crossing. We're building for 200+ children. The home is designed in the shape of a cross, two stories high and 55,000 sq. ft. The land will have a separate Church, Cafeteria, Nursery, Clinic, School, Gym, Work-Shop, Mexican Staff Housing, and Storage Buildings.

The children's home is called
"Casa De Las Gemas"
In English.... "The House of Gems"

Ministry Opportunities

A few of the ministry opportunities through TLM are:

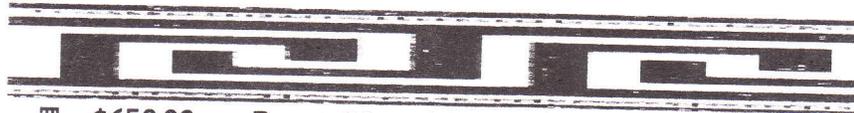
1. Help build the Orphanage with a Work Group (see below)
2. Mercy Ministry & Outreach to the people of Mexico (p. 12)
3. Donations of Building Materials, Etc. Or Money (all gifts are tax deductible)

CONSTRUCTION OF CASA DE LAS GEMAS

By far, this is the most important part of the Ministry! You and your team have an opportunity to be a part of the construction of a home for homeless children. We need laborers of all ages and skills.

Your Work Leader should contact us soon, because the work calendar fills up quickly! Our Work Group Director is the one to contact, so you can coordinate the best work week possible, plus we will let you know which phase of the construction we are in. TLM has basic tools available. If possible, bring your own specialty tools, and don't forget work gear (p. 4 & 5). It is extremely important for you to help raise the funds needed to make your week a successful one! The MINIMUM for each member is \$650.00,

THIS COST DOES NOT COVER THE COST OF MERCY DAY ON
Wednesday (p. 12)



The \$650.00 per Person Minimum covers..

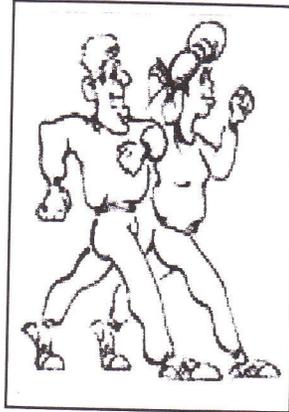
The cost of Basic Building Materials ~ Local Travel Expenses: Vans, Gas, Insurance, Guard Fees ETC. ~ Lodging (You must provide own sleeping materials). ~ ALL meals for the week & Golden Corral. (Except for Wed. Lunch, see p. 6) ~ Kids 0-12 years old are \$300. Only when accompanied by a parent.

PLEASE NOTE: Funds must be forwarded to TLM at least TWO Months prior to your visit in order to purchase & order materials and supplies. To import materials takes 6 weeks.

There are no refunds once materials have been purchased.

Preparing For Your Visit

- A valid passport is required as of 2007
- TLM's Liability Release / Permission Form; Notarized
- Bible & Notebook
- Sunglasses and / or Protective Glasses (blowing sand is frequent)
- Sturdy Shoes or Work Boots & Sandals for the shower
- Work Clothes, Modest Shorts & Jeans, Modest Shirts, and Work Gloves.
- Hat, Bandanna, and / or a Scarf
- Towels & Wash-cloths
- Toiletries (soap, tooth paste, antibacterial wipes, etc.)
- Sunblock (brand new one, NOT last years.)
- Bug Spray & Insect Repellent
- Sweatshirt or Warm Jacket (Night temps are chilly)
- Sleeping Bag, Pillow & Fitted Twin Sheets
if your group is over 60
- Plastic Bags for Soiled Clothes
- Camera & Film
- Favorite Snacks / Munchies (in a sealed Container)
- Spending \$\$\$ for Shopping & Eating
- Medical Kits (aloe, band-aids, peroxide, Tylenol, etc)
- Ear Plugs (in case of a snoring neighbor)
- Your Teddy Bear (or your favorite snuggle)
- A Durable Refillable Water Bottle, for your personal use.
- Flashlight



ALL THESE ITEMS ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT... TRUST US!

No Immunization required, except tetanus booster if needed
Absolutely NO Firearms, Knives (weapons), or Illegal Drugs.
These result in Immediate Arrest in Both Countries!

In case of an Emergency
Tapestries of Life's Office (915) 764-2688
We are on Mountain Time
tapestriesinfo@tapestriesoflife.com

Keep in the forefront of your checklist:

Custom of dress are probably most often violated by tourists. It's not that we mean to, it's just that we are uninformed. Please follow a few appropriate rules:

On Construction Site

Caballeros
(males)

YES

Tank Tops
Moderate Shorts
Pants/Jeans
Work Boots



Damas
(females)

YES

T-Shirts
Moderate Shorts
Pants/Jeans
Work Boots
Tank Tops (No
Cleavage Showing)

NO

Sports Bras as shirts
Short Shorts

NO

Short Shorts



Touring in Mexico

Caballeros

Modest Shirts
Dress Jeans / Pants
Tennis Shoes / Sandals

Damas

Modest Shirts
Dress Jeans / Pants
Modest Skirts / Dresses
Tennis Shoes / Sandals

Shoes Must Be Worn At All Times

Jewelry is not appropriate; such as gold chains, diamond rings, etc. It is not appropriate when working with the poor, plus, you may damage or lose them. LEAVE THEM AT HOME! Dress code is an important part of your witness to the Mexican people for Christ. As such, TLM reserves the right to ask you to change clothes, if what you have on is considered by our staff to be offensive to this culture.

Daily Schedule & Menu

Basic Itinerary for a week consists of...
(Subject to Change depending on Arrival Day & Lodging)

Saturday arrive at El Paso Airport ~ Travel to Fabens ~
Approx. 45 min. ~ Lunch or Supper ~ Unpack ~ Free Time
(Orientation on Sat., if sleeping in Mexico)

Sunday Breakfast ~ Church ~ Lunch ~ 4:00 PM Orientation
(2 hrs. Long) Dinner ~ Free Time
Shop for things you forgot or gotta have, we have a Super Walmart open 24hrs.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
8:00 AM Breakfast and Devotions
8:30 AM 'Manos A Las Orbras' ~ Time to Get to Work
12:00 Lunch ~ 4:30 PM Work-Ends ~ Dinner
6:30 PM Evening Devotions. ~ Showers ~ Lights Out

Wednesday 7:30 AM Breakfast ~ 8:30 AM Orientation
Mercy Ministry & Shopping ~ You'll need extra \$\$\$ for
Snacks & Souvenirs
U.S. For Dinner at Golden Corral (included in Price)

Friday Same as Mon. ~ Thurs ...except for the afternoon
Clean-Up & packing preparing for departure
Evening Farewells / Fellowship

Saturday Breakfast ~ OFF to the Airport

Orientation

AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL WE SET A TIME TO BRIEF YOU ABOUT YOUR
WORK SCHEDULE, WORK PROJECT, MERCY MINISTRIES, SHOPPING, THE
CULTURAL DAY, AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.

Your Menu

Breakfast: Cereals, eggs, french toast, pancakes, sausage, bacon, and bagels
Lunch: Mexican lunches, peanut butter & jelly for those who don't like it hot.
Dinner: Texas Brisket, Turkey, Spaghetti, Pork Roast, w/all the American fixings
Drinks: Coffee, Tea, Kool-Aids, Juices, and Rice Drinks

Note: IF YOU WANT MORE SNACKS OR SODA/POP YOU CAN PURCHASE
THEM AT OUR STORES DURING YOUR FREE TIMES

Team Member Responsibilities

- 1). Fill out all required forms and return to Team Leader ASAP!
- 2). Prepare your body & spirit.
- 3). Complete the TLM devotional as scheduled. (see p. 13-21)
- 4). Be willing to attend any meetings concerning missions to Mexico.
- 5). Be in a attitude of prayer about your part in God's plan.
- 6). Bring a notebook/journal to record your daily experiences.
- 7). Be prepared to share your experiences upon returning home.
- 8). Respect is to be shown to the Mexican nationals and officials you come in contact with. The utmost respect is also to be shown at the border crossing, to and from Mexico. You are guests in their country and Ambassadors of Jesus Christ.
- 9). Upon returning to the United State you must declare your citizenship, so be prepared to prove it if necessary. (Beginning in 2007 a passport is necessary for everyone including children)
- 10). Your behavior is an important part of your witness. Non-Christian behavior will mean a ticket home at your own expense.
- 11). Help with fund raising for your group. The need is greater than the amount your group will be spending.
- 12). If you leave behind any items either in Mexico or at the Outpost in Texas, we will not be able to mail them back to you. Many groups visit us in a month and we cannot keep up with forgotten belongings. So what you leave behind will be considered a donation to the ministry.

Team Leader Responsibilities

- 1) Contact TLM to coordinate your desired work dates with our work calendar the calendar fills up fast, so prompt payment of the group's deposit is essential to insure the dates you request. A deposit of \$300.00 required-Non-refundable.
- 2) Once you are scheduled to come, please avoid date changes. Notify TLM of your lodging preferences. Reservations are first come first serve.
- 3) Leaders are responsible for handling money for their group and for mailing the funds to the TLM office **two months** before team's arrival date. Your Mercy Ministry day is all up to your group. Funds are to be raised over and above your \$650.00. *If you have further questions, please call.*
Cathy Brewer, TLM's Mercy Ministry Coordinator, (see p. 12)

- 4) Assist in organizing the work project: Inquire who has what skills.

You MUST be part of the work-team that is
coming for that week!

- 5) Obtain all the necessary forms from your group. Make sure permission slips and liability forms have been notarized and bring them with you. Fill out and return all team information, including participants lists. These forms need to be mailed or faxed 30 to 60 days before your arrival.
- 6) Leave walkmans, game-boys, video games, etc at home. This week is to be quiet before the Lord. Only Leaders can bring special music for your group.
- 7) Discuss small children's involvement. Parents will be responsible for their children, they shouldn't use teens to baby sit!
- 8) Follow the same guidelines as set for team members. Prepare your group for culture shock. This is a third world country. Each team member, no matter how young, old, strong or weak, has a deep desire to be a servant to our Lord. Each one has sacrificed to be here. You need to show forth compassion and joy when things don't run as planned. Set realistic expectations.

Pastor & Church Responsibilities

The body of believers should be wholeheartedly committed to Missions abroad as well as at home. We invite the Pastor or Missions Director to come out and spend time with us. This will strengthen his/her commitment in preparing your team to come here.

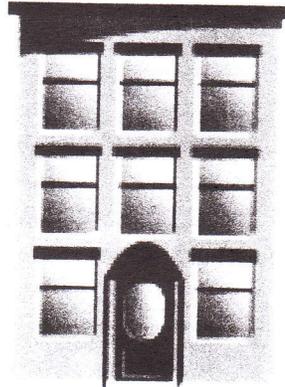
Responsibilities:

- 1) Support the work team prayerfully.
- 2) Support the work team financially.
- 3) Keep the event in the forefront. (pulpit, bulletins, announcements)
- 4) Sponsor members who cannot afford to go, but show a genuine interest in Missions.
- 5) Hold classes on missions
 - A. Pastor and others should share their past Missions experiences.
 - B. Have Pastor Steve Brewer from TLM come and share God's vision of the work in Mexico.
 - C. Talk about culture shock (What is it?)
 - D. Diligently pray for group during trip.
- 6) Give ample time for Church staff who need to take days off work.
A mission trip is NOT considered a vacation.
- 7) Assist in raising the funds for any additional project your group will want to accomplish.
- 8) Give your group an opportunity to share from their hearts about their missions experience. The first Sunday after their return trip is the best time, while the experience is still fresh in their minds.

Dormitory Information

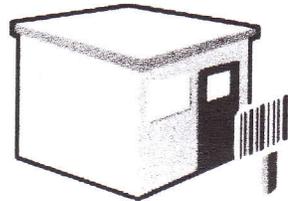
Tapestries New Dorm, "The Outpost":

- 1) Located in the town of Fabens, on Main St. (10 min. from the border)
 - 2) Dorm costs are included in the program.
 - 3) The Dorm houses 50+ people.
 - 4) The Dorm has a full kitchen, full bathrooms, and hot showers
 - 5) The bunk beds have inner-spring mattresses. The MEN'S bunks are college size (ex-long). If you need a fitted sheet you must buy accordingly. If members do not wish to haul their own bedding, we have enough sheets, pillows, and blankets onsite for teams that are under 60 people.
 - 6) A very large recreational activity center.
 - 7) Laundry Facility
- After your week is over, do not leave us your dirty laundry.



Guadalupe Bunkers

- 1) The Bunkers are located on the children's ranch in Guadalupe, Mexico
- 2) The Bunkers are rough bunkhouse style living conditions.
- 3) Bunker cost is included in the program.
- 4) There are two bunkers. Each holds 20 people.
- 5) The beds are metal Bunk Beds with inner spring mattresses.
- 6) Bunkers only have a few electrical outlets and are equipped with really cold outdoor showers. There are two glorified out houses each having two commodes. Rustic style living.



Vehicle Information

1) When bringing your **Personal** vehicles to drive into Mexico, it will be necessary to purchase border insurance for coverage while in Mexico. (Unless you are from; AZ, NM, TX, and CA) It is advised that this be taken care of in advance. Here are two recommended Insurance Co.

Farmers Insurance Group (915) 593-4000
Insurance Consultants International (915) 591-8279

2) TLM presently operates for group use:

- 1) 1999 - 15 passenger Dodge van
- 2) 2002 Ford vans
- 3) 2- 2004 Ford vans
- 4) Rental van(s) as needed for larger groups



Only licensed drivers are permitted to operate TLM vehicles.

If your group is involved in an accident with TLM's vans, your group will be held responsible for the \$500.00 deductible.

Damage due to obvious abuse will be the full responsibility of the group.

Your group is also responsible for any damage done to rental vans.

PLEASE ALL VANS MUST BE CLEANED PRIOR TO YOUR TEAM'S DEPARTURE.

3) It is not necessary to apply for a VISA for your car or truck, unless you travel 25 miles past the U.S. Border. Groups are subject to brief and perfunctory baggage inspections by Mexican Customs Officials

WHEN DRIVING, NO NEED TO BE NERVOUS; THIS IS NORMAL

NO PICTURES

REMOVE SUNGLASSES

BE RESPECTFUL AND POLITE

BE PREPARED TO SHOW PROOF OF IDENTITY

DO NOT TAKE ANY PHOTOS AT THE PORT OF ENTRY

NO GUNS, KNIVES, OR ILLEGAL DRUGS ALLOWED

Mercy Ministry

We minister to anywhere from 250 to 1000 children and adults each Wednesday, with visiting groups assisting us. Many groups desire to bring items to express their love to the Hispanic people. Your group needs to keep these numbers in mind as you prepare.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the Merciful, For they shall obtain Mercy.

Important to Remember:

If your group cannot bring enough for at least 250 families and 500+ children at a time, TLM staff will store your donations, then hand out items when we have the proper amount to distribute. We always want to have enough for everyone.

A Few Examples: Food Items: No Used Items
Dried Rice / Dried Pinto beans / macaroni / Canned Corn, green beans,
Tomato sauce / Sugar / Flour / Corn meal / Candy / Canned meats

Non-food Items

Band-Aids / Peroxide / Rubbing Alcohol / Toothbrushes & Paste
School Supplies / Shampoos & Conditioners / Sewing Kits

Other Items

NEW Toys / Diapers & Wipes / Vitamins for all ages / Blankets
Clothes Line & Clothes Pins / Umbrellas (they help protect against UV rays)
All Clothing, Shoes, Socks and Underclothes. NO USED ITEMS AT ALL!
Only used umbrellas and good / to new used coats

If you have other ideas, please contact TLM before purchasing.

The Ideal Situation is to bring EXTRA funding. We can purchase rice and beans locally at SAM's, then purchase food items directly in Juarez, MX. From our experience; we can purchase for 250 families, eggs, butter, meat, tomatoes, onions chilies, bananas, carrots, and tortillas for approx. \$2,500.00 dollars or more. (We spend more than that on Soda/Pop or McDonalds, just on ourselves!). Ultimately, this day can ONLY happen if your group makes it happen. If your group would like to give Spanish Bibles, you need to raise additional funds and purchase them prior to our visit. We recommend La Biblical Illustrate; Version 1990/ David C. Cook Publishing Co. Elgin, IL 60120

A Personal Devotion Plan

Walking on Water



“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

-Jim Elliot-

Matt. 14:25-33

During the 4th watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: “take courage! it is I. Don’t be afraid!” “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, “Truly, you are the Son of God.”

This devotional plan is designed to prepare you for your mission week spiritually, physically, and mentally. When you prepare yourself in every area, you will have an experience that you will never forget! The following recommendations will be very helpful to you. Start today!

PHYSICAL PREPARATION

Always remember to stretch before & after exercising.
One half hour of continuous cardiovascular exercise
25 or more sit ups daily
Light Weight Lifting



MENTAL & PHYSICAL PREPARATION



Read your work packet handbook more than once!
Follow its suggestions and checklists.
Visit the library. Read about Mexico.

Study this daily devotion the week before your trip to Mexico

As you read the scriptures each day,  write down your thoughts.

If you allow God to have His way, He'll change your life dramatically!
In the end, what you gain from your encounter with God will be determined by you. You are the one who decides if you will come prepared or not.

That means you are faced with a decision! If you don't want the best of what God has for you, then throw this book away. Come down to Mexico as if it were any other work camp. However, if you wish to have all of what God wants to give you, and come fully prepared for missions to Mexico, then dig in! We think you'll enjoy what He has in store for you.

We Look forward to serving the Lord with you and having a great time together!
God bless you! Are you ready to begin your journey?

Day 1 - Matt. 14:25 - "During the 4th watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the water."

Are there areas in your life that seem as impossible as walking on water? Are there things in your life God is asking you to face that seem too big? If there are, then God has your number. He'll let you know how to face them, because He too has shared in your humanity (Hebrews 4:14). He understands how you feel when faced with overwhelming circumstances. The difference is, He knows how to walk you through them and overcome any situation that you think is impossible. The Lord can also take a situation that you thought was impossible and strengthen your faith and help you walk through it.

Whenever you are confronted with a circumstance you feel is overwhelming, the Lord will show you the way to accomplish it with Him. He will either set the example for how He wants you do it, illuminate your way through His Word, or show you bit by bit as you walk out the unknown by faith. The Lord may call you to do the unknown, but He is still God in that unknown circumstance, because what is unknown to you is known to Him. He knew what it was to walk on water, even before Peter ventured out. He has a plan or solution for everything He calls you to do.

What impossible circumstances are you facing?

Pray and ask God to show you a verse or passage that deals with the situation with which you are confronted. Ex. If you need direction - Prov. 3:5-6 might be a good verse for you to hold onto.

I challenge you to memorize the verse(s) He gives you and put them in your heart. Soon you will begin to see your situation from a new perspective. You will see that your circumstances are not impossible with the Lords help.

Day 2 - Matt. 14:26 - "When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. It's a ghost, they said, and cried out in fear."

Walking on the water is out of the ordinary, if you ask me. It seems like a pretty impossible feat to accomplish in the natural. That is how the disciples looked at it - in the natural - and that is what caused them to be afraid. They reacted to this unknown situation in fear.

Many times, that is your first reaction when you are faced with impossible circumstances. God is calling you to be a man or woman of faith and not to respond in fear to tough situations but instead to respond in faith. Even when others are being fearful around you, don't let them cause your faith to sway. God was showing His disciples that something they thought was impossible, really was quite possible. He wanted their eyes to be opened to see things from a different perspective - a perspective that all things are possible with him .

Is fear holding you back in an area?

How can you overcome this fear?

What is your perspective of your circumstance?

Is it the same as God's perspective?

Day 3 - Matt. 14:27-28 - But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I! Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it is you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

When Jesus saw His disciples walking in fear, He rebuked them. He also encouraged them to step it up and walk in faith. Peter must have been full of courage because he asked to walk on water. He knew it would be possible with the Lord at his side. Out of everyone on the boat, Peter was the only one willing to step out and do the impossible. He didn't let the fact that no other disciples would do it with him influence or sway him.

Many times, you are the only one that will take a step of faith in obedience to your father, but you won't regret it! Don't let the doubt of others or their lack of obedience hold you back. Rise up! Do what God has called you to do, no matter what others are or aren't doing around you. Don't let others dictate how you respond to the Father beckoning you to step out in faith.

Who or what is holding you back?

Whose voice are you listening to?

How can you change or become free to serve?

Day 4 - Matt. 14-29a - "Come, he said, then Peter got out of the boat....."

I can just imagine all the thoughts racing through Peter's head as he was climbing out of the boat. He was probably asking himself why he was doing such a crazy thing. Even though fears must have been racing through his head he didn't let his thoughts stop him. As Peter was swinging his leg over the side of the boat, he was responding to the Lord telling him to come. By Peter getting out of the boat he was leaving his place of safety. It was also his comfort zone. He was willing to leave all he knew to step out in faith into the unknown. When Peter asked the Lord to walk on water, the Lord gave him a one word response - "Come." The Lord didn't give Peter lengthy or detailed instructions about what would happen after he "came." Peter didn't have a clue what to expect and he really didn't have much to go on, except the word, "come." Peter chose to trust anyway and step out of the boat. He knew that no matter what happened, the Lord would be right there with him.

When God calls you to get out of your comfort zone, be bold and step out. Don't let fear of the unknown keep you from doing what God has called you to do. Even if God doesn't give you all the details, trust Him and "come." Be willing and obedient.

In what areas has the Lord told you to "come"?

Have you been obedient and trusted?

What is your trust level?

Day 5 - Matt 14:29b-30a - "he walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Peter was walking on water. He's doing the impossible. It says, "he came toward Jesus." When you go toward an object or person, that's where you're looking - it's where your focus is. At that point, Peter's entire focus was on the Lord. He only began to sink when he shifted his focus from the Lord to the wind and what was going on around him.

The wind can represent people and circumstances in your lives. When you are focused on the Lord, you can do the impossible. It's when you begin looking at your circumstances and letting them rule you, that you start to sink in the impossible. Prov. 4:25 says, "let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you." Then in verse 27a it says, "Do not swerve to the right or the left." Stay focused on the One who has called you, no matter what is going on around you. Don't even glance to the right or the left. It's not worth it to take our eyes off of Him. As long as your focus is on the Lord, you will be able to carry out all He has called you to do.

Where is your focus right now?

Is there anything that is causing you to "sink"?

Day 6 - Matt 14:30b-31 - "He cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith, he said, why did you doubt?"

When Peter began to sink, he had three choices. He could: 1) just give up and drown; 2) try to swim back to the boat by himself or; 3) call out to the only one who could truly save him. When Peter called out to the Lord, it says in verse 31, that the Lord immediately reached out to save Peter.

When you're struggling to fulfill the impossibles in your life, don't quit. Don't try to do it by yourself. Just call out to Him, and He'll come to your rescue. He's not going to let you drown or call you a failure. He's a God of mercy and wants to see you complete what He has called you to do.

Zech 4:6 - Are you trying to overcome areas in your life by your own might and power?

Are there areas in your life you need to relinquish control to him?

Prayer: Father, allow me to know your heart, to feel what you feel toward those who are truly in need. Show me what my part is in expressing your love to the treasures of Mexico.

Day 7 - Matt 14:32-33 - And when they climbed into the boat, the wind had died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The disciples saw Peter walk through all of this. They saw him step out, walk, and even sink, but they also saw the Lord rescue and take care of Peter. But Peter being obedient and doing what as those around him thought was impossible, it brought glory to God. It says they began to worship God. It made them realize it truly was God who had walked to them on the water in the first place. He wasn't a "ghost," like they thought in verse 26. He proved to them He was real and not a fake.

Through your circumstances, let God show Himself to be real and living, not just in you, but also to those around you.

Where have you seen God be real and faithful in your life?

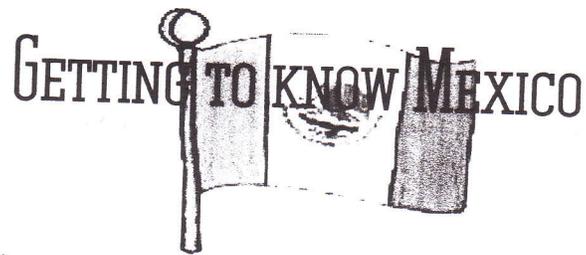
Has victory in someone else's life given you extra hope?

When contemplating if the walk of faith in front of you is worth it, remember this...

"If not you, then who? If not now, then when?"

There are people out there who are waiting to meet God in you. But they will never know Him, unless you step out and obey.

GETTING TO KNOW MEXICO



It would take us a year to teach you all about Mexico and its diverse culture. We would suggest that you (or as a group), visit your local library and learn about Mexico and the area you'll be ministering in and visiting.

Mexico geographically can be compared to the United States. Mexico is a Country. Within her borders are states, then cities, and small colonias (towns). Some states in the U.S. have different weather patterns, plant life, foods, industry, economics and even strange dialects. Mexico also shares the same diverse cultures within her borders.

TLM's work is in the state of Chihuahua; the colonia Guadalupe. It's a desert region that only accumulates 1 to 10 inches of rain a year. The terrain is sandy and dry. We are approx. 4,000 ft. above sea level. The temperatures in:

Nov-Feb are 70-85 degrees day / 15-25 degrees evening

Mar-May are 85-95 degrees day / 40-60 degrees evening

Jun-Oct are 95-115 degrees day / 60-70 degrees evening

The WINDY season is from March-May & Sep-Nov with wind gusts of 25-60 mph. Believe it or not we get some snow. Occasional flurries in Dec.

Our ecosystem consists of mountain lions, jack rabbits, rattlesnakes, tarantulas and scorpions, just to name a few. Some are venomous and some harmless. The plant life consists of cactus type plants, palm trees, and yes we have tumble weeds.



The major food staples are corn, rice, beans, tortillas a wide variety of veggies and fruits. Most importantly the chilies that make up our hot to mild salsas! YUMMY!





Shopping in Mexico



Everyone loves to shop in Mexico and it's a great experience as long as you follow a couple of good, sound guidelines.

Shopping in Mexico is like the day of our grandfathers. We will be taking you to the market of Juarez. There you will find an open air extravaganza of vendors; shouting, coaxing, and bartering with the potential customers. You'll find so many beautiful things to buy: pottery, rugs, clothing, jewelry, and leather goods just to mention a few. Absolutely no knives, soils, veggies, meats, birds, animals, certain skins, items on the endangered species list and ALL plants. These items Cannot be imported into the United States. This includes Mexican Jumping Beans.

One Orange can cost you a \$1,000.00 FINE!!!

No need to exchange your U.S. Currency; they prefer dollars over Pesos. It's wise to have small bills for shopping. NO bills larger than \$20.00.

Wednesday morning we will have a separate orientation for our Cultural Day, Mercy Ministry & Shopping at the Meracado.

General Safety Tips

- DO hide valuables in your vehicle
- DO lock your vehicle
- DO carry your money/wallet in front pockets
- DO pay for whatever you break
- DO know there are no refunds or exchanges
- DO shop in pairs or groups and stay in designated area.
- DO bring your own bottled water
- DO drink canned or bottled soda pop
- DO follow all government customs regulations
- DO be polite and most of all DO HAVE FUN!!!

Points to Ponder

Your missionaries need you to trust them. They know the country in which they are working and they will be looking out for your best interest.

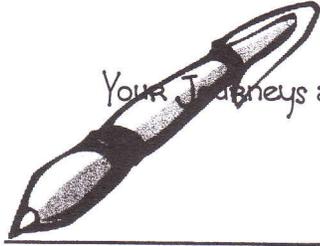
Your missionaries have carried the vision of the Lord for many years. Many prayers, preparations, hard work, sacrificing and unseen tears have gotten them to where they are today. However, sometimes we have to learn hard lessons just as they had to, but it will greatly strengthen your walk with the Lord.

Your missionaries are servants of our Lord and they want you to experience what it is to be a servant. So be open. Be willing to serve in the least or greatest areas of servant hood. Your missionaries ask you in all meekness; please do not complain. Missions is never easy. Rewarding, yes, but a life that needs to be flexible. Each person will experience culture shock in different ways. We'll talk more when you come, but you should be prepared to listen, observe, and pray as you learn about a Third World culture.

Your missionaries want you to be prepared spiritually, physically, and mentally: so please take their recommendations in this booklet to heart!



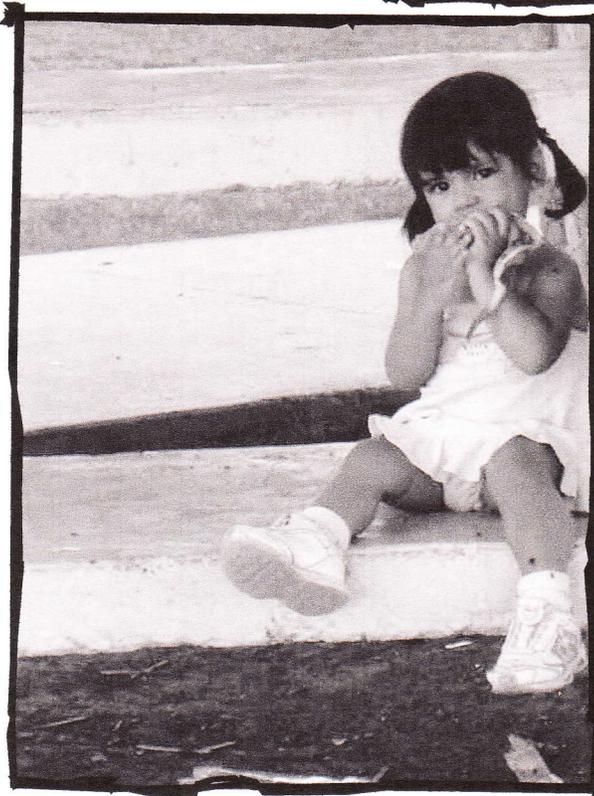
Personal Notes



Your Journeys are God's Greatest Plans for your life!

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