

MEXICO MISSIONS TRIP INFORMATION SHEET
March Break 2014 (March 12-19)

WHAT ORGANIZATION ARE WE GOING WITH?

- We will be working with YUGO Ministries (Youth Unlimited Gospel Outreach)
- Since 1964, over 50,000 teens and adults served in missions work with YUGO Ministries in Mexico
- YUGO's goals
 - o To reach Mexicans with the gospel
 - o To disciple Mexicans into reproducing churches which also have a heart for missions
 - o To challenge more North Americans to get involved in World Missions
- YUGO is an interdenominational missions organization
- YUGO is a member of the ECFA – Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability
- For more information... check out www.yugo.org (Ensenada Outreach)

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

- We will be serving the community in and around Ensenada, which lies on the Pacific coast of Baja California, 70 miles below the border

WHEN ARE WE GOING?

- We will be going over March Break. March 12 (Sat) – March 19 (Sat)
- We will leave the Square in the VERY early morning on Saturday, March 12th to catch a morning flight from Buffalo to San Diego (one stop over)
- We will be back in Burlington around midnight on Saturday 19th/Sunday 20th. More info to come

WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?

- The “Ensenada Outreach Program” allows for the group to create a program/schedule that will fit the strengths and interests of the group
- We will focus on a construction project. We will start and finish a house (or 2 depending on numbers) in a week alongside a wonderful family, and a church called Iglesia Fundamenta. We have the great privilege to work with Pastor Rigo and his congregation in Maneadero! To build a house you **don't** have to be a skilled construction worker – you just have to be willing to work!
- We will get the chance to worship with the people of Ensenada by attending a church service on the Wednesday night!
- We will have times of leisure and enjoyment as well, from eating real Mexican tacos, to bartering in the local market. Plenty of Mexico experiences lay ahead!

HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

- We will fly to San Diego from Buffalo (one stop in between)
- In San Diego we will rent vehicles (driven by our fabulous leaders) to get us across the Mexican border. It's about a three-hour trip to Ensenada from the San Diego airport.

WHERE WILL WE STAY?

- We will be staying in Campo de Suenos (located 4 miles south of Ensenada) in the town of Pueblo of Chupultepec. It is a safe and enclosed campus. We'll be staying in dormitories with hot showers and dining facilities. They will provide us with three nutritious meals a day

WHAT WILL WE EAT?

- Breakfast menu includes pancakes, breakfast burritos, eggs and the like. Lunches are packed and brought with us to the work site; sandwiches, snacks and fruit. Dinner menu includes pasta, hamburgers, chili and more! People with special diets may wish to bring some extra food with them, but we can work things out with YUGO as well (ex. Vegetarians may want to bring protein bars, etc.)

IS IT SAFE?

- The community, for the most part, is clean and more representative of the Mexican culture than cities along the border
- YUGO Ministries have been bringing groups down to Mexico since the early 1960s. During that time they "have never had anyone killed, mugged, maimed or permanently injured. Yes, sometimes [they] have had a few broken bones, usually a result of the sports ministry programs. Every so often, somebody gets sick. This usually happens when people do not eat, drink or sleep enough. If we encounter any medical problems that the Staff Outreach First Aid person cannot handle, we do not hesitate to take the person to a US hospital"
- YUGO is an entry-level missions program. Therefore it does not send teams into areas that are known to be dangerous.
- The costs include Accident Insurance for each registered participant (however, you might want to purchase Travel Insurance for luggage, etc and Health Insurance that covers illness, etc.)

WHO IS INVITED TO GO ON THIS TRIP?

- The trip is designed for all high school aged youth (grades 9&up). There will be 7-10 chaperones (ages 25&up) providing safety, health, and support for the youth.
- Due to the increased excitement for this trip we may have to put limitations on how many we can take. First priority will be given to Wellington Square Youth. Other teens (friends, etc.) can apply but if our numbers are too high then those without a space will be given a full refund (the \$200 deposit). We should have an idea of our numbers by early November 2015 – you can double check numbers with Cait at any time via email – cbelanger@wsquare.ca
- You will be asked to fill out an application and Wellington Square Health Form (www.wsquare.ca/youth)
- You will be required to meet the basic expectations, following the established rules and policies of YUGO, and approaching this trip and events with an attitude of maturity and responsibility
- Leadership: more info to come on our fabulous leaders!

WHY MEXICO? Some facts...

- Ensenada is an area often overlooked for short-term mission efforts because of its reputation for tourism. But in fact tourism occupies less than 1% of the 600,000 people in Ensenada. Less than 5% of these people are Christian. "They harvest is great, but the workers are few" – Matthew 9:37
- Many of these surrounding communities are populated by Oaxacan Indian people, relocated from central Mexico with the promise of having jobs. These "jobs" are farm workers, earning only .35cents/hour! These very poor people live in tents made from plastic tarps or in shacks made from any scraps of wood/metal that can be nailed together
- Children as young as 7/8 years old become the caregiver for the younger children of the family because both mother and father work each day in the fields

WHY YOU?

- God has called us all to "Go make disciples of all nations" – Matthew 28:19 ... that includes Mexico... and that includes YOU!
- Act as the feet, hands and heart of Christ to reach Mexican people in a very practical/hands on way
- You will experience giving and receiving love in an entirely different culture, with people who speak another language, and you'll experience the warm, loving Mexican way of life
- You will be challenged in ways you have never experienced. It will cause you to examine your own life, and it can change your perspective forever
- EXPERIENCE YOUR FAITH AND YOUR GOD IN REAL WAYS
- Let God use YOU!

CHALLENGES TO THINK ABOUT

- The purpose for coming is to SERVE. This is not your summer camp experience or vacation. Many have found that the greatest joy came through serving!

- The number one priority is *not* to give us an experience of crossing the border into Mexico. It is about reaching and serving the Mexicans, and as a result we benefit from the rewards and experience.
- It will require you to be committed both prior and during the trip! Prior to the trip, you need to commit to meeting as a team, attend training sessions, helping with fundraising efforts, pray for the trip, be responsible for all necessary preparation details assigned to you. During the trip you need to commit to working hard and as best you can in the various ministries; be respectful of the culture, staff, and leadership teams; fully participate in all of the program elements; work as a team; and obey all rules

COSTS

BREAKDOWN

- Mission Costs (room/board/YUGO) - \$350 CDN (opportunity for full sponsorship to follow)
- Airfare (rough estimate at this time) - \$700-800 CDN
- Insurance (flight cancellation and medical) - \$100
- Car rentals & gas – this is usually covered by fundraising throughout the year
- Construction Project - \$4500/house (x2?) – funded by WS Outreach and year-round fundraisers
 - o Estimated cost = \$1100-1300/person

Extra Costs: Varies per person

- Passport (current/**cannot expire for at least 6 months AFTER the trip** [Sept 2016])
- Shots/Updated Medical Records
- Personal Costs – souvenirs/travel meals/etc. (recommended \$150-200 USD)

If we didn't do any fundraising (which we have and will) costs would be higher. However, we are continuing to do as much fundraising as we can (plus personal Fundraising/Sponsor Forms) which will help cut down costs.

WILL WE DO FUNDRAISERS?

- The costs of the trip are high and money may be an issue for many of you considering this trip. We certainly do not want to deny access to such an experience primarily because of financial constraints you and your family may have. But we do want to address this issue honestly
- We will be doing one major fundraiser within the church congregation for this event in February. You are also encouraged to participate in personal fundraisers outside of church walls, focusing on drawing in community support, as opposed to tapping the same "in-church" resources (example: bottle drive in your neighbourhood).
- Personal sponsorship will be the most encouraged type of fundraising. We will provide you with sponsor sheets for you to attempt to raise money for your own trip costs

WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO DO...

- Think and Pray! Spend time thinking if this is something God is calling you to! Is this mission trip something you would be up to or enjoy? Talk to people who have been on the Mexico trip or other mission trips to learn more about their experiences
- Talk to your parents! Not only will your parents need to sign permission forms, etc. but you will need their support and help in preparing for the trip, finances, etc.
- Deadline to Apply: **October 18th, 2015 (with \$200 non-refundable deposit*)** Spots are limited!
 - o We can't have people wavering, we need to see your commitment level
 - o Remainder of payments will be made through November to early January
- From there you will have various steps and things you will need to work on
 - o **Passport – please order this ASAP!!! (or make sure it will be up to date as far as 6 months post-trip (up to September 2016))**
 - o Medical Updates
 - o Sponsorship
 - o Clothing (modest, work clothes, etc.)

*Non-refundable should you choose to cancel