

AIMexico

Youth Mission Experience to Monterrey, Mexico

Orientation Material

Students Role in Outreach

It is no accident you are on this trip-God sent you.

God brings missions teams together. There are so many different talents and skills that God unites into one team. One team member will have the gift of singing while another has an uncommon compassion and is drawn to those who are lonely and hurting. One can be gifted to share their faith with little difficulty, while another may not be able to communicate the message well, but instead, will know how to love people. This is the beauty of the Body of Christ. God gathers and brings various individuals that all play a major role in communicating and demonstrating the love of Jesus to a dying world.

You fit into the team because you are very strategic, in touching this world and, in particular, the people of Monterrey with the love of Jesus. Whether you believe it or not, God has blessed you with various talents and skills. Whether you feel qualified or not, God will use your life for one simple reason...You are making yourself available to Him by choosing to participate in this outreach.

In order to prepare yourself for the ministry that this trip will include, make sure to not neglect your personal devotion and prayer time with God over the next few weeks. One scripture passage that will really help you to understand the concept of working together as a team is 1 Corinthians 12:4- 31. I want you to pay special attention to these verses, because one thing that is absolutely, necessary in an outreach or any ministry for that matter is unity. Each person is vital to the overall "success" of the trip. And each person working together, as one body, no one excluded, will create an effective ministry environment.

Please know that there will, no doubt, be days on this outreach when you will feel important because God has chosen to use your life in a way where you can see immediate results. There will also be days where you might feel insignificant because, in your mind nothing has really happened. Don't allow the enemy to sneak in and put either of these extreme thoughts in your mind. Know that because you have chosen to go, God will use your life every second: He will use you to pray, to encourage, to love, to restore, and to bring unity. Yes, God will be using your life even when you don't know it or feel it. He is using you because you are a part of the Body of Christ. Just do it! Remember that everybody influences somebody...and the way we influence others could be positive or it could be negative. Even when you're not the center of attention or the main attraction or the most effective verbal witness, you are still influencing people in one way or another.

Every Person Is Important

- The Bible reveals the information that, in this life, one person plants, another sows, but the bottom line is that God gets the glory. In the American mind-set of ministry, sometimes those who reap seem to get all the credit and the people that sow get little credit. Remember that it's not about any of us getting ANY of the credit, but that God's will is done. And as His will is done, every person is valuable.

The Enemy's Number One Goal Is To Distract You.

The enemy does this a number of ways. Here are a few examples:

- Feeling like you're not doing anything
- Inconveniences (Getting out of your comfort zone)
- Problems and unforeseen situations
- Opposite sex attractions (none on this trip-remember that our goal is to minister and serve, not find our mate!)

This trip can be a tremendous time in your life or a big waste of time... ours and yours.

The Reason We Are Going

To be an answer to the prayers of the people we are working with...not to be a headache and not to do what we want to do. In order for this to happen, we must do the following:

- Establish Unity.
- Be aggressive (Jesus, Book of Acts)
- No such thing as "ministry time". Every second and minute of this trip will be an opportunity for you to minister. It's all the time.
- Pray with one another daily. (We will meet for corporate prayer everyday... participate in these times...wholeheartedly.)
- Bind the work of the enemy.
- Pray for God to prepare a harvest.
- Pray for the those who accept Christ (and pray for salvation)
- Pray for the church with which we will be linked in Monterrey
- Pray for your team and leaders.
- Pray for sensitivity to the Spirit. "If we are Spirit-led...we can accomplish His purposes".
- Do devotions each day...even on the trip.
- Use common sense before asking "stupid questions".
- Be patient and flexible at all times (you WILL have to work on this).

Consider Your Motives for Participating in this Trip

Proper Motives:

- To gain invaluable experience in ministry.
- To expand your understanding of the needs of others.
- To share the love of Jesus.
- To deepen and enrich your spiritual life.
- To see souls saved through faithful witness and prayer.
- To be an answer to the prayers of the people you are ministering to.
- To be a blessing the pastors and congregation of local church in Monterrey.
- To enhance the work of the local church.
- To exhibit the life of Jesus as His examples in the Gospels.
- To build lifetime bridges with Christians in other locations.
- To become open to the leading of God in your life.

Improper Motives:

- Because it is an adventure.
- Because a friend is participating.
- To go sightseeing.
- Because someone is paying your way.
- To impress others.
- To see what missions is like.

Attitudes

- 1 Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic?*
- 2 Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another. And working together with one heart and purpose.*
- 3 Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble. Thinking of others as better than yourself.*
- 4 Don't think only about your own affairs. But be interested in others too, and what they are doing.*
- 5 Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.*
- 6 Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God.*
- 7 He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.*

Philippians 2:1-5

Do not be a spectator

Short-term mission trips are not spectator sports. God does not intend for you to be on a sight-seeing tour. He wants you involved. It is very easy to hide in a group of people because of fear or insecurity. Should you do this you will only be cheating yourself.

God has many wonderful things in store for you. But you must exhibit steps of faith to experience God's blessings. This can only happen by involving yourself. When you find yourself standing around with little to do, look around and ask God to guide your steps. Through prayer, or by seeing a need, God will place a desire in your heart to make a difference.

God wants you on the front lines of ministry. He will open many doors for you. But you must have the *courage* to step through those open doors. Don't allow the enemy to rob you of all the wonderful things that God has in store for you. Be strong and courageous and step out in faith. Be reminded of what the scripture says:

"For God did not give us a spirit of fear but one of power, of love and of a sound mind."

2 Timothy 2:7

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

Philippians 4:13

Our team will be extremely successful if every team member does their job by involving themselves in ministry, Ministry can be a number of things such as sharing your faith, praying for people, drama, helping with the equipment, cleaning up a rally site, carrying luggage, assisting those who request your help, and the list goes on and on. The point is...get involved and watch God use your life. You are His hand extended.

Proper Attitude

The attitude that you carry before, during, and after this trip, will determine whether you have a good or bad mission trip experience. A positive attitude is essential if you want God to use your life. It is also a key element in keeping our mission team unified. If every team member possesses a positive attitude and a servant's heart, we will have a tremendous impact for Christ in the places that we minister on this outreach.

We have listed below some ideas to remember which will help you keep a positive attitude:

- Problems are not obstacles; they are opportunities for God to be glorified.
- Hurry up and wait whenever you need to be somewhere.
- Be flexible every minute of every day.
- Our moods, whether gloomy or bright, radiate to those around us.
- It is much easier to smile than frown.
- Security is mostly a superstition. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.
- We must either find a way or make one.

- There is no limit to what can be accomplished, if it doesn't matter who gets the credit.

"Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. YOUR ATTITUDE SHOULD BE THE SAME AS JESUS CHRIST."

Philippians 2:2-5

Behavior

Because of many of our high standards of living, sometimes we carry patterns of behavior that hinder the work of the gospel in areas that are different from the environments where we are raised. For example, when we travel to a different culture, even within the United States, it's easy to have the perception that the way we do things is right and the way everyone else does things is wrong. Attitudes and behaviors like this will close more doors than they will ever open.

Please know that the way we treat people, their customs, language, food, and traditions will have a great impact on how effective our message will be. We are leaving our home to visit a city we are trying to reach with the love of Jesus. To them, their own ways are normal and ours are peculiar. We need to remember that we are the strangers, not them. As a result, we must honor their culture. It is very important that we treat them all with dignity and respect. We need to be sensitive to their culture and their ways and do our best to fit in with them.

Remember to think before you speak...ask questions to yourself before you comment, make statements, and react to situations.

Difficulties and Adjustments

Whenever you experience new situations, circumstances, and environments, there will be various adjustments that you will need to make. You will face new events, occurrences, and difficult situations. You will be more effective for the Kingdom of God by preparing your mind and heart to be ready to deal with these situations. Below is a list of thoughts and ideas that will make your cross-cultural experience a powerful time in your life:

- Expect the unexpected.
- Remember that schedules will probably change.
- Opportunities may be different than what you expected. Do not be disappointed. Know that God's will is being done.
- Whenever you travel, especially abroad, you will *not* have the conveniences that you find at home. Be prepared to handle this.
- Not everything will be a glorious and wonderful situation. Do not go with unreal expectations.
- Be vigilant against grumbling, complaining, criticizing, and self-pity. The enemy will use these to destroy team unity as well as you.
- Learn to be flexible and roll with the punches in every situation.

- Be on guard against homesickness. Should this happen, pray with another team member immediately.
- Get proper rest each evening.
- Inform your leader immediately if you are feeling sick.
- Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Relationships

For this mission outreach to be a success in your life, it is imperative that you keep your relationships in tact. Here is a list of some practical ways to keep all relationships in tact on this outreach:

Relationship with God:

- Be consistent in keeping your personal and group devotions.
- Keep an active prayer life at all times. Pray without ceasing.
- Give God glory in everything that transpires. Know that His will is being accomplished in your life. (Romans 8:28)
- Seek to exalt Jesus in everything you do and say.
- When you are unsure, fearful, or hurt, talk to immediately.

Relationship with Team Members:

- Never lose sight of the team concept.
- Pray daily for each other.
- Remind yourself daily that you have a strategic role as a member of the team.
- Be sensitive to the needs of others.
- Be flexible at all times.
- Love people at all times. Remember love covers a multitude of sins.
- Pray together with a team member twice daily.
- Build deep relationships with members of the team.
- Do not complain about a problem you are having with one person to someone else. Deal directly with the person with whom you are having a problem.
- Be punctual and on time so as not to create division among team members.
- Do NOT gossip or slander others on the team.

Relationships with Team Leaders

- Serve your leaders
- Pray for them daily...they will face many difficulties each day.
- Encourage leaders daily.
- Do not question their authority or decisions.
- Remember they are not perfect people. They will make mistakes.
- Insubordination will do nothing by hinder the team's influence.
- Pay attention when given instructions.
- Think before you ask questions.

Relationships with host church and people being ministered to:

- Respect, honor, and love them.
- Avoid an attitude of superiority at all cost:
 - By what you say.
 - By how you act.
 - By body language and facial expressions.
- Never talk down to them.
- Pray for them daily.

Facts about Monterrey

Monterrey is a powerhouse of Mexican industry, and anyone conducting business in Mexico will likely find himself or herself there at some point in time. Monterrey is Mexico's third largest city, and the center of Mexican industry. Though there are some colonial style buildings, Monterrey is one of Mexico's most modern cities. Just recently completed, the Gran Plaza of Monterrey is the center for the state government of Nuevo León. The Plaza's modern buildings, gardens, and monuments are a reflection of the city that has fully embraced the spirit of modern industrialism rather than old-world colonialism.

Monterrey is surrounded by the Sierra Madre Mountains at an elevation of 1,800 feet above sea level. The Mountain View is spectacular and is dominated by Cerro de la Silla (Saddle Mountain), which has come to be a symbol of the city.

Despite gaining many advantages by being Mexico's industrial center, the industrialization of Monterrey has had some negative side effects, primarily air and noise pollution. The city is spread out, but remains relatively crowded. The city is wealthier than most other Mexican cities, and consequently, the prices here tend to be higher. Despite the minor disadvantages, Monterrey is a beautiful, modern city that has much to offer both in business and tourism.

Monterrey was named in 1596 after the Count of Monterrey who was the Viceroy of New Spain.