

Preparing for your Trip with Weekend Missions:

When preparing to go on a mission trip the attitude of your heart is the most important thing to prepare. We need to understand that the mission trip is not about me; but the journey is about the people in which you will encounter during the mission trip.

Whose life will I touch during this trip?

“Lord, allow me to make an impact on someone’s life during this trip.”

The most important preparation you can do before a mission trip is to “Prepare yourself spiritually by reading the Bible and praying on a daily basis.” Your quiet time with the Lord before any mission trip will help make it a successful trip.

As members of any mission trip, we are expected to maintain the highest standards of integrity and morality. We will be representing Jesus Christ to our brothers and sisters in our churches, community, across the border, and internationally; so we must remind ourselves to always show and keep the highest standards of Christ’s love and acceptance to all around us.

- We want to make sure that we are a blessing to all that we meet on this mission trip. We are the letter that everyone reads. People are always watching to see how the Americans will act.
 - *2 Corinthians 3:2 You are the letter, that is known and read by all men.*
 - (Border agents, resort staff, waiters/servers in restaurants, local pastors and wives, Customs agents, etc.)
- Help encourage the local believers. Work together with them when you can; and help them accomplish their goals. Encourage them to see what God can do for them and through them in their town.
- Share a meal with the locals, eating together breaks down all cultural barriers.
- Ask about their families, kids, do they have a job, what are their goals.
- Share your testimony with the locals, let them know what God has done in your life.
- When you are on a mission trip, always look for opportunities to reach out and talk to people that the Lord puts in your path.
- Open your mind up to a new world view; to the culture that you are visiting. Ask the Lord to speak to you and open the world up to you in new ways.
- Be open to how you can respond to the Lord’s call to “Go into all the world.”
- Our agenda and our attitudes have to be in check at all times.
- Always have a “Just flow with it,” mentality. We will have start times and finish times to our meetings but if they don’t start on time and if they don’t finish on time its ok. We need to be there at the designated time but sometimes the culture of the country will dictate our real start time. We say we are going to dinner at this time or that time maybe we do and maybe that time gets changed. On the mission field you never know what is going to happen. “Just flow with it.” If we keep this in our hearts it will help our “attitudes” and our “expectations.”
- Need to keep a pulse on the entire mission team. How is everyone doing?
- Always remember it’s not about you, it’s about the team. Always be a team player not a lone ranger.

- Don't do ministry alone, always pray with a team or partner.
- Always let your leaders know where you are going, when leaving the premises.
- Always follow the leader's direction. Never question the leader's authority or decisions in front of the group. Speak to them in private.
- Being under authority and in submission brings the greatest amount of freedom and anointing into your life during a mission trip.
- NEVER go anywhere from the Villa Granada site alone, NEVER.
- Protect the unity of the team at all times.
 - *Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell in unity together, for there the Lord commands the blessing life forever more.*
Ps. 133:1-3
- Be bold to step out and pray for people.
- Prepare yourself before the trip. Daily devotions, prayer and asking the Lord to move mightily during the project time, when you are out on the street, at homes, businesses, etc.
- Make sure that you have a prayer shield about you before, during, and after your trip/assignment, 3-5 people specifically committed to interceding for you.
- Know and understand your physical limitations. Remember on a mission trip the assignment you are on will always take longer than they tell you it will take. "Flow with it."
- You will need Mexico trip insurance on your vehicle.
- Call your cell phone provider to get info on service availability.
- If you wish to give a donation or offering, please coordinate it through the local leader in the region. They know more about individual circumstances and needs than you do.
- Journal your experiences on your trip. Each night journal the days events.
- You are on the mission field the moment you leave your house on the way to your mission destination.

Culture issues:

- Dress modestly, no drinking or smoking, no profanity. (*Most believers in other countries believe that when you get saved that you no longer do these things.*)
- Men pray with Men, Women pray with Women, or at least make sure you have a male and female on a team while praying for opposite sex.

What to Bring:

Personal items:

All bathroom personal hygiene items, earplugs (for sleeping), hat to protect from the sun, sunscreen, sun glasses, any personal medications, vaccinations if needed, vitamins, spending money (\$1 bills), small flashlight. PASSPORT, and a copy of your passport in your bag. Food snacks, 1 liter refillable water bottle or water bottles.

Clothes:

Clothes you would wear working out in your yard or garden. Most Mexican men do not wear shorts. They wear long pants. Shorts are acceptable, though. Women do not show too much leg in Mexico. If it is not modest don't bring it with you. Don't bring your good jewelry or flashy jewelry. There is no use for it.

Personal Growth:

Bible, journal/notebook, and pen.

Enjoyment:

Camera. Document your trip, journal each evening or morning. Laptop, Ipads, WIFI is present.