

HARVEST HANDS MINISTRIES SHORT TERM MISSION TRIP BROCHURE

MEXICO 2026

“Thrust in your sickle, and reap: for the time has come for you to reap;
for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” Revelation 14:15



HARVEST HANDS MINISTRIES

Headquarters

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Garry and Terry Mathewson, *founders*
Harvest Hands Ministries was
incorporated in 1999 & is a
501 (c) 3 non-profit organization



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HARVEST HANDS MINISTRIES

A non-denominational ministry upholding traditional Biblical values

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The mission of Harvest Hands Ministries is to nurture and disciple families, particularly impoverished children, by providing care-giving and educational programs so that they might reach their full potential and know the hope in Jesus Christ.

RESPLANDOR DE VIDA LOCATION:

RURAL AREA NEAR JUAREZ, MEXICO (18 miles in from the Santa Teresa, NM, port of entry)
JUAREZ is just over the border from El Paso, Texas

ACTIVITIES:

MEXICAN CHURCH SERVICE
WORK PROJECTS
VBS, FOOD DISPENSING & EVANGELICAL OUTREACH (see page 8 for more information)

ACCOMMODATIONS:

LODGING: AMERICAN TEAM DORMITORY AT THE WORK SITE IN MEXICO, A/C & HEAT
BATHING: SHOWERS
BATHROOM: FLUSH COMMODOES
EATING: DINING HALL

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The ministry headquarters is located in Westfield, NY.
Your team will receive an orientation about Mexico shortly after arrival.
We recommend a volunteer or two from your team to serve as **'Kitchen Manager'** for the week to oversee the food preparation. Nine of your meals will be prepared by the Mexican women at the mission. Team members are responsible to do regular clean up in the kitchen, dining hall, dormitory and bathrooms at the team complex.

AIRPORT:

EL PASO, TEXAS Your transportation from the airport and return to the airport will be provided.
Please plan to arrive by 6 pm at the latest. (The earlier the better!)

LUGGAGE ALLOWED PER PERSON:

If flying: Check with your airline. We can accommodate: 1 Piece luggage or duffel bag, 1 sleeping bag, 1 backpack



RESPLANDOR DE VIDA CHILDREN'S HOME

SCHEDULE

Your week will generally consist of 4 workdays and one cultural day.

The suggested day for arrival is Saturday and departure the following Saturday, however, you may check with us to book a weekday to weekday to save on airfare costs. 1 week consists of 7 nights lodging.

A typical work day schedule will include:

Breakfast

Team led devotion

Work delegation & set up

Begin assigned tasks

Midday lunch

Work

Work site clean up & end of workday

Dinner with the children prepared by Mexican cooks

Free-time with children after dinner

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS:

We ask that each team prepare a VBS program for the children. Garry will let you know the location & number of children. Skits or puppet shows may be added to the bible lesson. Please bring a craft for the children to do. You will have approximately 1-1/2 hours to fill after praise and worship. We will provide translators for you. You may bring a guitar and sing praises in Spanish or use a Christian Spanish CD or Pastor Nacho will do the praise for you with the children. Video aids are available at RDV. Please check with Garry regarding more details when planning. **Please come prepared with all your craft materials purchased & hand-outs printed in advance. Thank you!**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS



CLIMATE & TERRAIN

We are located in the high desert. The altitude is 3,762 feet. Sand, cacti, mountains, tumbleweeds, and beautiful sunny blue skies will be common sights. We may have the occasion to see a scorpion, tarantula or black widow, as is typical in this part of the country.

SPRING MONTHS: March & April

Normal temperatures range from the 40's at night to the 70's or 80's during the daytime. This can be our windy season that may bring sand storms. It is important to bring sunglasses and bandannas. Sunscreen is advised.

SUMMER MONTHS: May - September

Normal temperatures range from the 70's at night to high 90's and even 100+ during the daytime. Sunscreen #40 -50 and hats are recommended. Wide-brimmed hats provide much relief and you will fit into the culture just great! You'll be glad you brought one! You will be responsible to monitor your water intake. This is very important, as the heat here is a dry heat. You will not notice too much perspiration; however, your body is losing water. You will need to drink continually. We will be drinking bottled water in Mexico and will never ingest Mexican tap water. Fruit breaks provide energy and moisture intake. We want you to enjoy each day of your mission trip and gain the full benefit of your time with the Lord here. Your health is important to us. Everyone's ability to work in the heat is different. You will all be advised to rest indoors as needed.

FALL MONTHS: October & November

Normal temperatures range from the 50's at night in October and the 40's at night in November to 70's-80's during the daytime. Windy days bring chillier temperatures. Bring sweatshirts/light jackets.

WINTER MONTHS: December, January & February

Normal temperatures range from the 20's-40's at night to the 50's-70's during the daytime. Daytime winds cool the temperatures. Bring sweatshirts, a hoodie & jacket! Sand storms may occasionally occur in February. Bandannas are a good idea.



GOALS

Our goals during your week here with us:

1. To continue forward in the work projects God has directed us to as well as reach out to the Mexicans through evangelism and feeding programs, working side by side with Mexican brothers and sisters.
2. To share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Mexico through your talents and servanthood.
3. To provide you with an opportunity to interact with the people and children of Mexico.
4. To educate you regarding the needs of Mexico and share with you a bit of their culture.
5. For each group member to experience God in a tangible way by putting their faith into action and seeing God work directly in their lives.

DEVOTIONS, PRAISE & WORSHIP

Each visiting mission team will need to plan their devotions in advance. One thought is to choose a team leader to head up the devotions. Organization in advance is important to make the best use of the time given here. A morning devotion of about 10 minutes is recommended daily. This creates unity among the group and prepares our hearts for God to work in each of us during the day.

We will also join a Mexican church for their Sunday service. The dress for this occasion is listed on the 'what to pack' pages. Come ready to Praise the Lord!



WHAT TO PACK: GALS

Personal clothing

MODEST DRESS: T-shirts, jeans, sweatshirt, sweater, jacket (colder seasons) sweat pants, capris.

PLEASE NOTE CLOTHING NOT ALLOWED:

Skirts with high slits, mini-skirts, sun dresses, short shorts, leggings, skinny jeans, tights, jeggings or spandex pants are not allowed. Also, the following tops are not allowed: Off-the-shoulder, midriff (that show the naval also), short, tank, low-cut (front or back) or revealing cleavage top, tube top, spaghetti strap, halter, see-thru, bathing suit. Military type clothing or camouflage are not allowed. Ripped jeans showing skin are not allowed.

1 Timothy 2:9 "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel..."
Remember, we are ambassadors of Jesus Christ to the nation of Mexico.

WORK SITE: Appropriate dress is a modest, loose T-shirt & capris, scrubs, jeans or sweats, socks, sneakers. (Pack lightweight capris or jeans for summer months.)

Modest, long, Bermuda style 'knee-length' shorts are allowed.

CHURCH: Simple, modest skirt or dress pants & blouse. Follow guidelines above listed under personal clothing. No mini-skirts or high slits in skirts please. Sandals OK.

CULTURAL DAY: Appropriate slacks or capris and modest top. Follow guidelines above listed under personal clothing. Sandals OK.

Personal Gear:

Bandanna
Hand Sanitizer
Work gloves
Work boots recommended. Sneakers allowed.
No sandals for the work site.
Sandals or sneakers to wear when not working
Rubber sandals for showering
A warm blanket or sleeping bag for colder weather
Sunglasses, hat
Alarm clock, flashlight & batteries
Bath towels, washcloths
Soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste
Razor
Shampoo, hair dryer
Personal medications
Hand wipes
Sunscreen #45+
Refillable water bottle, coffee mug
Saline nose spray
Lip balm, Chap Stick
Bug Spray July-Oct. (just in case)
No contact lenses recommended during work hours but not enforced. The ultimate decision is yours.
Hand cream - a good one!
Bible and journal

PROPER IDENTIFICATION:

- [Beginning May 7, 2025, if you plan to use your state-issued ID or license to fly within the U.S., it must be REAL ID compliant. If you are not sure if your ID complies with REAL ID, check with your state department of motor vehicles.](#)
- A temporary driver's license is not an acceptable form of identification
- State-issued Enhanced Driver's License (EDL) or Enhanced ID
- [U.S. passport](#) OR [U.S. passport card](#)

*NOTE: The altitude is 3762.' Sinuses may need moisture. The dust is prevalent here in the desert.

Please leave unnecessary jewelry at home.

WHAT TO PACK: GUYS

Personal clothing

MODEST DRESS FOR THE WORK SITE: T-shirts, jeans, sweatshirt, sweat pants, modest shorts, socks, etc.

Not Allowed: Military type or camouflage, ripped jeans showing skin.

CHURCH: Casual slacks or good jeans and a nice shirt. **No shorts at church please.**

CULTURAL DAY: Casual shirt, nice jeans or casual slacks

Personal Gear:

Bandanna

Hand Sanitizer

Work gloves

Work boots recommended. Sneakers allowed. No sandals for the work site.

Sandals or sneakers to wear when not working

Rubber sandals for showering

Hat

Sunglasses

Bath towels, washcloths

Soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste

Razor

Shampoo

Personal medications

Hand wipes

Sunscreen #45+

Refillable water bottle, coffee mug

Saline nose spray

Lip balm, Chap Stick

Bug Spray July-Oct. (just in case)

No contact lenses recommended during work hours but not enforced. The ultimate decision is yours.

Hand cream - a good one!

Alarm clock

Flashlight & extra batteries

A warm blanket or sleeping bag for colder weather. We have light-weight blankets, sheets and pillows.

PROPER IDENTIFICATION:

- [Beginning May 7, 2025, if you plan to use your state-issued ID or license to fly within the U.S., it must be REAL ID compliant. If you are not sure if your ID complies with REAL ID, check with your state department of motor vehicles.](#)
- A temporary driver's license is not an acceptable form of identification
- State-issued Enhanced Driver's License (EDL) or Enhanced ID
- [U.S. passport](#) OR [U.S. passport card](#)

Bible, Notebook for journal writing

*NOTE: The altitude is 3762.' Sinuses may need moisture. The dust is prevalent here in the desert.

MERCY MINISTRY

ITEMS YOU MAY WANT TO BRING FOR OUR MERCY MINISTRY

Your group is welcome to distribute these items to the Mexican children:

Bubbles to blow
Balloons—larger size
Candy (chocolate melts in the summer)
Crayons & appropriate coloring books
Bar soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes

For our school supply drive in July we are collecting:

Pencils & Pens
Spiral Notebooks
Books, erasers, glue sticks, pencil boxes, pencil sharpeners, scissors, plastic rulers, girl's, boy's & men's socks.

Outreach:

Spanish Christian tracts and complete Spanish Bibles
Mexicans prefer the **Reina Valera** complete Bible

Personal Care Bags:

Personal Care Bags can be assembled prior to arrival or later. We usually minister to 130 children at RDV and 40-60 children/mothers at Pastor Noe's church.
Suggested items to include are: New bar soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, socks, comb or brush

OUTREACH

During your week, your team has the opportunity for door-to-door evangelism, prayer and passing out food to the local community.

We request that the team provide \$300 to purchase the necessary food for dispensing. This is a very enriching experience and has so often been the highlight of the team's week.



GROUP PREPARATION

1. CHOOSE A TEAM LEADER(S)
2. PRAYER: We ask that as you begin having regular mission trip meetings with your team as God starts bringing together the members and that prayer be a priority among the group. Meetings can be held, for example, after church services or on a weeknight. The amount of prayer you put into the trip beforehand will often determine the fruit born on the trip. Ask your church to be praying for your team while they are gone and to form a prayer group specifically for this purpose. Please encourage all team members to attend all meetings.
3. DEVOTIONS: We recommend devotions and/or teachings at your meetings to prepare the team members.
4. PREPARE: Prepare your group where necessary to be efficient and knowledgeable on the job during the mission's experience. For example, you may want to practice ahead of time working with the craft projects you plan to do during a VBS on your trip.
5. COMMUNICATE: Good communication is a key factor in assuring overall success! Communicate regularly with your pastor, your congregation, your team members and Harvest Hands Ministries.
6. CHECK LISTS: Keep good records about who is going, who needs to be phoned regarding meetings, airline or other transportation plans.
7. ASK: Ask your congregation for support, especially prayer. Perhaps there is someone going who needs a sponsor to fund his or her trip. Some people are not able to go on mission trips but can feel a vital part of the team by helping in the organization, praying, fund raising or sending candy and other items for the Mexican children
8. JOY: Remember your JOY during planning time, travel and service to the Lord in Mexico.
9. SHARE: Share in the workload - there will be regular chores such as cooking, dishes, sweeping & cleaning. With everyone's participation, no one will become too worn out to reap God's best on the trip.
10. FLEXIBILITY: At times, things can get hectic, plans can change and it can be hard for some to go with the flow. In Mexico, life moves at a different pace than here in the U.S. In order to fully enjoy your mission's experience, we must be flexible and exercise the fruit of the Spirit: Patience. We believe that God has everything worked out and will use our lives during this time.
11. A SERVANT'S HEART: Matthew 20:26-28
"...Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..."

Some people are given the gift of leadership in their lives to their benefit and to the benefit of those that follow. We do ask however that everyone on the mission trip takes on the character of a servant regarding his or her work for this one week. The leaders of Harvest Hands Ministries and the leaders in Mexico have prepared for your visit and will have everything planned. Expertise is welcome, but ultimately the leader of the project will make the final decision.

May God bless you as you seek Him regarding a trip for your church. May He be your source for guidance, wisdom and provision.

We recommend The Essential Guide to the Short Term Mission Trip by David. C. Forward

GROUP MISSION TRIP FEES & DEPOSITS 2026 for 1 WEEK

\$675.00 PER PERSON

\$500.00 PER CHILD 12 & UNDER

Participants age 14 and under will need to be accompanied by a parent or an adult accepting responsibility for that child.

The cost provides for team meals on site, meals for the children at the VBS, 7 nights lodging at RDV, Mexican vehicle insurance, gasoline, water, work projects and balance helps toward operation costs of RDV and IHH. The size of the group affects the finances available for work projects.

Please add \$75 per person for each additional day if your team stays at RDV more than 1 week for the extra days' projects, food, etc.

A deposit* of \$335 per participant is due 8 weeks in advance of your visit.

The balance is due 4 weeks prior to your arrival day.

Construction materials, rental items, etc. must be ordered and ready prior to group arrival. Therefore, it is important to have your deposit and balance of funds in on time. **THANK YOU!**

Please make checks payable to:

Harvest Hands Ministries
6636 S Portage Rd
Westfield, NY 14787

* Deposits are not refundable

WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. We believe in God Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth and in the Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16-17, Isaiah 45:18)
2. We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God.
(II Timothy 3:16)
3. We believe that sin separates us from God. (Isaiah 59:2, Romans 3:23)
4. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. We believe that He walked upon the earth, died on the cross, and rose from the dead so that we may be reconciled to God.
(Matthew 1:23, Matthew 28:5-7, Colossians 1:19-22)
5. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to right relationship with God and that there is salvation in no other. (John 14:6, Acts 4:12)
6. We believe that if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved. (Romans 10:9)
7. We believe in the forgiveness of our sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.
(I John 1:7, 9, Hebrews 9:22)
8. We believe in the second coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and that we have eternal life in Him.
(I John 5:11-12, Matthew 24:29-31, I Thessalonians 4:13-18)
9. We believe in the Great Commission to 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 Jesus has commanded. (Matthew 28:19-20)