

United in Christ Ministry, Worldwide, Inc.

SHORT-TERM MISSION TEAM MANUAL

PURPOSE: To reach the lost for the Lord Jesus Christ through short-term missions trips. To involve local churches in the fulfillment of the great commission and give the members an opportunity to experience missions first hand. To assist the missionaries in the on-going work of church planting.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES:

1. You will need to acquire an U.S. Passport or Passport Card (after January 1, 2008) for those 18 years or older. A certified copy of your Birth Certificate works for those under 18.
2. Make a copy of your passport and visa page, as well as a copy of your driver's license.

MINISTRIES & ACTIVITIES: The activities and ministries of the team will be directed by the missionaries and Team Leaders to ensure a proper communication of the Gospel of Jesus Christ cross-culturally. The ministries and activities of the team may include:

- Assisting the missionaries in any ministries and projects they are presently involved in (eg. children's ministry, visiting prisons or hospices, feeding, clothing and sheltering the poor, youth ministry).
- Preaching, testifying, praying, sharing in worship, and being involved in any services held during the trip.
- Ministering in any way the team is specially gifted (Ex: building/construction, VBS, Medical). The ministry is open to your suggestions, but all plans need to be approved by the ministry.

MINISTRY GUIDELINES:

1. **Clothing:** All **Clothing should be modest and appropriate** (no tank tops, shorts should be around knee length, no inappropriate writing on t-shirts, no low cut shirts or stomach showing)
 - Work and outreach -- clothes should be casual (shorts, t-shirts, jeans, etc)
 - Services -- dress clothes (skirts, dresses or slacks for the ladies, respectable shirt and pants for guys, no ripped up jeans and no shorts).
2. **Have a submissive spirit to God's authorities-** Team leaders, Missionaries, and any local Pastors.
3. **Do not eat and drink anything offered in Mexico** unless your team leader says it is okay.
4. **Maintain high spiritual standards-** pray, praise, preach, love and share!
5. **Be teachable and correctable.** If you need to correct someone do it promptly in a spirit of love.
6. **Don't make promises to any ministry** that are outside of your authority (eg. We will send money, we can stay additional time, we can split up the team, we will be back, etc.)
7. **Safety in Mexico/USA-** No one goes anywhere alone, keep the ladies protected.
8. **Keep emergency phone numbers with you.**
9. Please **check with the leaders** before handing out tracts and other evangelistic materials; before giving money, gifts, etc; or before visiting private homes.
10. You **must attend all morning devotions and group meetings.** Please be on time for all meals and group activities.
11. **No alcoholic beverages or tobacco are permitted** any time (do not purchase them on trip either).
12. **Be respectful of all curfews set.**
13. **Be respectful at the border crossings.** Do not make jokes or take photographs.
14. **Please refrain from physical displays of affection for non-married people** (holding hands, arms around each other, kissing, etc.). Trips are to focus on the Lord, not boyfriend/girlfriend relationships. No girls in guys' rooms and no guys in girls' rooms! If you are not married you should not be alone with someone of the opposite sex. Always have three people when there is a mixed group of both genders.

- 15. Do not bring any type of weapon** (fire arms, knives (other than pocket knives), etc.) It is illegal to carry a gun in Mexico. You do not want to go to a Mexican Prison.
- 16.** You must fill out Short-term mission health screening checklist and follow ministry, local, state and national Covid-19 safety rules. Masks will be worn at certain times.

MEXICO SITUATION: Most of you know that the current situation in Mexico is unstable. Drug cartels are fighting for control of drug routes and territories. This has caused acts of violence to occur in certain parts of Mexico (most of which occurs between the cartels and the military and police). United in Christ ministry is aware of the situations and will do their best to keep everyone safe, but ultimately we are trusting God for the safety of all of us. Feel free to discuss the details, and ways teams can lower their risk while in Mexico, with team leaders and missionaries.

SCHEDULE & LOGISTICS: The schedule will be intense for the team so as to make the most of the Lord's time and be as productive as we can for His Kingdom.

- The teams will stay in the dorms, the mission house, the church or individual homes of church members (if available), the teams will eat at the church, out in local restaurants and/or will eat at the homes of the church members (as available).
- There may be a day of seeing sights of the town and visiting ministry locations.
- A specific itinerary of the team's schedule will be given them before they leave the U.S.

SOME FINAL NOTES:

- No whining or complaining. Be submissive to authority, rejoicing, willing and cooperative- always ready to minister.
- Desire to serve God and reach souls for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Have the understanding this is a missions trip and not a vacation – this means work.
- We are working as Christ's ambassadors and we must represent Him with all holiness, purity, and righteousness – all clothing must be appropriate and modest.
- We are guests of this country so we need to respect the people and their culture even if we don't agree.
- Have a servant's heart, work in unity – think of the team first always.
- Be considerate of others, show common courtesies, keep a good attitude. Remember that smiles cross language barriers and most importantly, that you are here for the Lord's purpose.
- Submit to the United in Christ Ministry, Worldwide, Inc. policy on short-term missions.

Each person will be personally responsible for conforming to whatever rules and regulations the national ministry, or its leadership, deem necessary to maintain an efficient and orderly flow of ministry to the people; and to maintain harmony within the ministry and between different ministries. Many times conduct, dress or other actions that are acceptable standards in our society and culture can be inappropriate in an alien culture. This could have a negative effect for the communication of the Gospel. If you have questions or doubts about anything cultural please ask your mission's leader or one of the missionary leaders. Like the Apostle Paul, let us take all measures to avoid becoming a stumbling block or an offense to anyone.

I AGREE TO SUBMIT TO THE ABOVE GUIDELINES WHILE I AM ON THE SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP WITH UNITED IN CHRIST MINISTRY, WORLDWIDE, INC.

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____
(PRINT)

(SIGNATURE)