

# Mexico

Global Impact Team 2024

April 1-7, 2024

Irapuato, Mexico



# What's this all about?

Hope Missionary Church is pleased to sponsor a global impact team bound for Mexico this spring in order to come alongside an established organization providing hope and help to children in Central America!

We recognize that we're NOT experts when it comes to the culture and customs of Mexico, and that is precisely why we've aligned ourselves with World Gospel Mission, which has been on the ground there for the last several decades.

In the following pages, you'll find all sorts of information about this Global Impact Team. We'll address the how's and why's of what we've got planned. We're doing our very best to plan our missions experience in order to be the most prepared we could possibly be upon arrival in Mexico.



But the beauty of a trip of this nature is the unexpected that often pops up and surprises everyone. Flexibility is key for team members!

Mission trips can be amazing, life-changing experiences for the participants, but they can

also be amazingly stretching. If you're interested in growing in ways you may never have thought imaginable, we strongly encourage you to prayerfully consider joining the team!

# Why are we doing this?

Short-term missions experiences sponsored by Hope Missionary Church exist in order to provide:



1. Personal spiritual growth that is cultivated in a foreign culture and stressful settings. There's a pretty strong chance that the person who will be most changed by this experience will be YOU... not the people to whom you minister.
2. A developing heart that yearns to PRAY more and become more financially invested in eternal things for the rest of your life.
3. An opportunity to minister to unbelievers/believers in a cross-cultural setting.
4. An opportunity to listen. Listen carefully to God's whisperings prior to, during, and after this trip. It may be safest to start this experience by assuming that He might be calling you to something you've never considered before!
5. A sense of team and unity with other individuals and the sense of satisfaction that is produced when fellow believers work together for a common ministry.

*There will undoubtedly be other purposes that make themselves apparent as we walk this path together. Many of those will be evident only to you as an individual.*

# What are the details?

**WHEN:** The actual trip is scheduled for **April 1-7, 2024**.

Before we travel together as a team, we'll be meeting regularly together to MAKE us a team. Team meetings will take place on Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:00 pm at Hope Church (see "What are the next steps?" for dates).

**WHO:** Anyone who has a heart to serve others in the margins of the world! You don't need any specific skills or talents; you just need God's urging to go. We'll help you prepare, and He'll give you the grace to serve effectively on our team. Plus, our partners in Mexico know their ministry, and they'll plug you in exactly where your skills and talents fit. That's part of the beauty of this experience!

*Due to the nature of our service, our team needs to be comprised of folks who have completed high school.*

**OUR PARTNERS:** We're working alongside an organization called World Gospel Mission in Marion, IN. Founded in 1910, WGM first stationed missionaries in China. As the years progressed more fields were opened, and today WGM ministers in seventeen countries across the globe. For

more information about World Gospel Mission, visit them at

**[www.wgm.org](http://www.wgm.org)**.



**THE COST:** Our final cost can't be determined until our flights are booked. At this point, it appears that total cost of the trip will be about \$1,500, which will cover flights, food, lodging, and in-country transportation. Team members will also want to plan to take some spending money for souvenirs.

**THE WORK:** This is not a "go-and-see" kind of trip. We'll be working and doing while we're in Mexico. Sure, we'll have the opportunity observe LOTS of different ministry contexts, but the primary focus of this trip is to aid in the construction of a Christian school in the city of Irapuato.



This particular facet of WGM's ministry is growing and expanding at lightning pace, and the school is a primary focus of interest as the ministry moves forward to reach more people.

Numerous work teams will be visiting and serving in Irapuato in 2024 in order to complete the goal of having the school open for beginning of the next school year. We'll pick up right where the preceding team has left off and work hard to move the building along.

We don't currently know exactly what type of construction work we'll be doing– that depends on the accomplishments of the teams who precede ours on the field. But we DO know that we'll be working right alongside local construction workers on the project!

# Why this destination?

Mexico's official name is: The United Mexican States or The United States of Mexico. Mexico is a democratic country consisting of 31 states and 1 federal district, Mexico City. The official language of Mexico is Spanish, but there are 68 languages recognized by the government and over 350 dialects throughout the country.

On September 16, 1810, Mexico won its independence. Each year, the people of Mexico celebrate with parties, fireworks, and a group cheer in the town or city square: **¡Viva Mexico!** (Live Mexico!).



The population of Mexico is over 129 million. Only 7.6 percent (2010) profess to be evangelical Christians. The Bajío, with a population of over 10.6 million, has about 2.5% evangelical Christians. The numbers are growing, but we need help.

The average Mexican household is multigenerational, with six to ten members.

Mexico is a Catholic nation by tradition. The Virgin of Guadalupe is its patron saint. It is not uncommon to have a different patron saint for each city in addition to the national patron saint.





There is much to know when you go to another country and interact with people of another culture. The following is to help you understand the culture a little more.

- The Mexican people often greet each other with a kiss on the cheek or a touching of cheeks.
- When visiting a family, they will most likely offer you something to drink and, quite possibly, to eat. Receive what is offered; it may seem insignificant to you, but to the Mexican people it is very special.
- Understand that for many nationals, the Catholic faith is a lifestyle, and you may see some idolatry and worship of Mary.
- The Mexican people are event-oriented. They don't focus on time. It isn't uncommon for somebody to arrive 15, 20, or perhaps 30 minutes late for an event – and it's hard to say goodbye because they love being with others.
- The dress in major cities of Mexico is casual.

# What am I agreeing to?

When you decide to go on a short term missions experience, you are agreeing to the following:

- Be a servant. You are called to set your rights aside (Mark 10:45) and to place the interests of others above your own (Philippians 2:3,4).
- To attend all scheduled meetings which are mandatory and scheduled well in advance. We need to be a TEAM prior to boarding a plane and stepping into another culture.
- To embrace the discomfort that will undoubtedly come as the team exists in a different culture over the course of several days.
- To raise your own support and to do it in a proactive manner. We'll help you track your progress along the way!
- To dress in an appropriate manner in-country as dictated by biblical standards and the culture you are going to visit. Remember, you are a GUEST in their country!





# Why is so much expected?

These are some serious expectations for team members.  
Why is the bar set so high?

1. Because so much is at stake. We are traveling, working and serving as representatives of Christ himself.
2. Training and building team unity greatly diminishes the potential for relational discord. We want to be sure that we don't set ourselves up to fail.



3. Stepping out of our home culture will exert pressures on us that we can't even begin to expect.
4. Each team member is aware of the requirements BEFORE they sign up.
5. A byproduct of a missions trip is to stretch people out of their comfort zone. If it is easy, there is little stretching!
6. The leadership team of Hope Church firmly believes that the bar should be set "high" and that the training we currently have in place is necessary.

# Why can't you go?

Many times when we hear that a mission team is forming, we are excited about the opportunity for OTHERS to serve. But we find it easy to conjure up all sorts of reasons why God wouldn't want to use US. Here are three common **mission trip myths** that we'd like to dispel in hopes that you'll seriously consider joining us:

1. **Mission trips aren't fun.** We're going to serve others in Mexico—but sometimes people think that means we're doing hard and exhausting work all the time. While we will be doing hard work, some of the best parts of these trips come when the work is done for the day. We get to build relationships with our global partners, play games with them, and learn more about their lives—and that's a whole lot of fun!
2. **I won't be safe.** Traveling in today's society can be scary—we know that. But missionaries with World Gospel Mission have spent decades learning the ins and outs of this country. They know exactly where to go and what to do to ensure our safety throughout the trip.
3. **I'm too old/young/busy/shy/quiet/etc.** We're all "too" something—but those can be some of our greatest strengths. We've had 20-somethings and 60-somethings go on similar trips, and all have served in powerful ways. Don't let your doubt keep you from the journey God has for you.



# What are the next steps?

- **Pray...** that's going to be a frequent part of all that we do as a team. Be sure that you have a clear sense that He wants you to be a part of this team!
- **Get your passport...** if you don't already have one. It's not difficult to get your passport, but this can take some time to process, so it's a good idea to get started RIGHT AWAY. Visit this site for more information...  
**[www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)**
- **Set up a budget** to start saving the necessary funds. While we will work together as a team to raise funds for our trip, there will undoubtedly be a need for you to share in the financial responsibility of your participation. *(Don't let financial fear keep you from participating... over the years we've seen God do some CRAZY things to get people where He wants them to serve!)*
- **Complete the application** that is easily accessed by scanning this code! This application must be completed no later than **DECEMBER 1, 2023.**



- **Research the region** to which we'll be traveling and begin to make decisions about what preventative health measures you want to take. We will leave these decisions to each individual on the trip. Perhaps it would be a good idea to touch base with your family doctor as well as visiting the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).
- **On your calendar** jot down "Global Impact Team Training" on the following Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm.
  - **December 10**
  - **January 7**
  - **February 4**
  - **March 3**

These meetings are critical to our preparation as a team, so we do our best to get you the dates as early as possible.

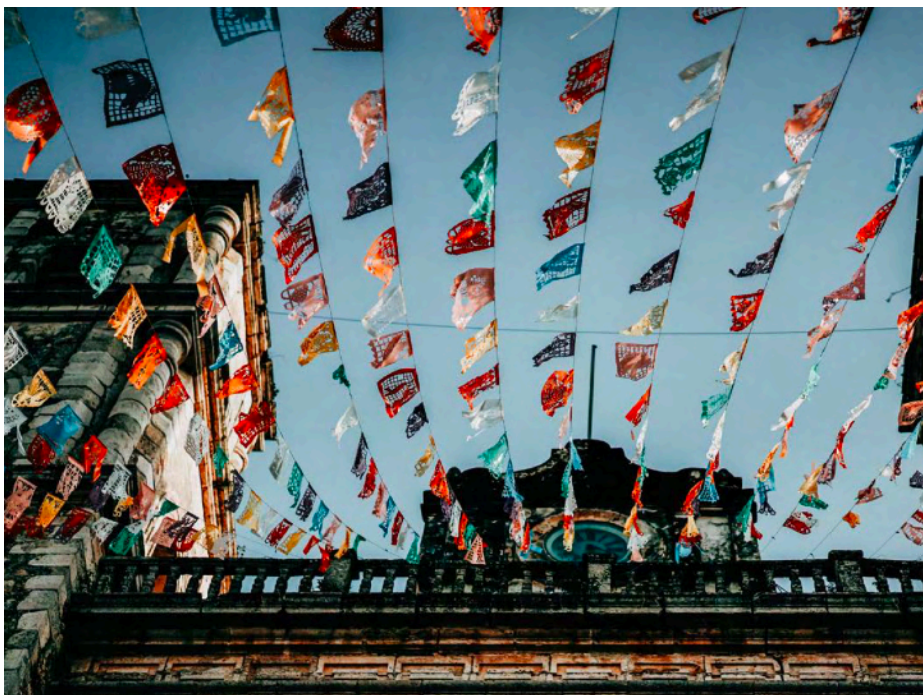
Any time an individual travels outside the boundaries of his/her own country, there are risks that are understood. Traveling to a third world culture calls for extra vigilance. We've taken great care to minimize the risks that this team will be facing, but there may still be situations that arise while the team is serving which will place us outside of our comfort zone.

Occasionally, unforeseen risks can accumulate and grow to a level which is best described as a threat. These are extraordinary circumstances that can impact the potential health or well-being of the team. If the team leaders believe that a set of risks has elevated to a threat, the team leaders take their responsibility seriously and will take the necessary steps to make decisions regarding the viability of the experience.

# How can I pray for Mexico?

- ☑ Mexico faces social and economic challenges. The government sees the difficulty of traditional solutions and now invites Christians and churches to help meet human needs. 60% of Mexicans struggle with poverty, both rural poor and slum-dwellers.
- ☑ Many Mexicans blend the gods and goddesses of Amerindian spiritism into a folk version of Catholicism. Pray for the Holy Spirit to break the influence of these ancient gods and the spirit world.
- ☑ Evangelicals numbered 800,000 in 1960. They now number over 9 million, and the movement still grows! Pray for godly church leaders, and for more pastors willing to work among the poor in rural or slum areas. City jobs and bigger churches attract many new pastors.
- ☑ The Catholic Church oppressed ministry work in the past, but the government now gives freedom at local, state, and national levels. Both international denominations and indigenous movements grow well.





## Questions regarding this team?

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