

## Grace Beyond Borders Texas/Mexico Mission Trip Basics

The trip has been a week in January or February. The Grace Church group and the Wisconsin group have been traveling on different days. Usually the trip runs from Saturday to Saturday.

### **General Schedule:**

- Grace Church group flies to Texas on Saturday and flies home the following Saturday. Wisconsin group drives to Texas Thursday & Friday and drives home Saturday & Sunday of the next week.
- The first Saturday is a day to get oriented with team and setup work projects. Sunday is the only day we have been traveling into Mexico. In Mexico we worship with various churches, present a Gospel message, deliver Christmas gifts to children, and serve hot dog lunch. We also enjoy a meal at a restaurant in Mexico. Monday-Friday are work days in Texas. Wednesday evening is usually a time to worship with a church in Texas, present Gospel and deliver Christmas gifts to children. Some years we have clothing and food bags to hand out through the Texas church.

### **Mission Trip Participants should expect:**

- To participate in all planned activities; and to be on time to all gatherings.
- To be assigned a prayer partner before we leave. (paired up with someone else going on the trip)
- To be assigned a time to do morning or evening devotions with the group. Something can be prepared ahead of time to read, a song to share, or personal reflections about what you've witnessed God doing on the trip.
- To be asked to help with meal preparation and/or cleanup.
- To be patient with other team members and the people we have contact with. The pace of work is often different than we are used to. Sometimes we are not able to get the supplies for the work projects we want and there is need to improvise. Sometimes it takes time to get the supplies to the worksite and all we can do is wait.
- To be respectful of the culture. When we are on jobsites and doing evangelistic outreaches we always wear long pants no matter how warm it is. When we are back at Melody Lane shorts are permitted.
- To be mindful each mission team member is designed differently by God, and has a different primary work style. We don't honor God or one another if we are judging one another because we have different definitions of what constitutes "work." So, how are you wired?
  - 1) **Doing:** Doers execute. They come alive when tasks are complete, lists are checked, or projects are tackled. They typically have intense focus and are detailed in their efforts. Doers are usually so focused, however, they may forget to look up and communicate what they're doing. Doers also tend to dive into work with little forethought. They believe that everyone should "Shoot, Fire, Aim" and tend to devalue the important work of planning.
  - 2) **Leading:** Leaders create the vision and inspire others to believe in it. You can't help but listen to, admire, and follow the Leaders. Without Leaders, we would be spinning in a hamster wheel with no real vision. Leaders can be detached from others, not completely understanding all that goes into executing their vision. Because they're out in front, they sometimes forget to check in with the people following them.
  - 3) **Loving:** Lovers are relationship-builders. Believing that we're stronger together, they thrive in harmony and work hard to manage relationships and build consensus. People strong in the Loving working style are sensitive and empathic. They have an unconscious finger on the pulse of every other person on the team. If you want to know how others on your team are really feeling, ask the Lover. But Lovers aren't strong at follow through and more detail-oriented work. Left to their own devices, they can out-empathize anyone and make people feel great, but not provide "tangible" work.
  - 4) **Learning:** Learners are the researchers. These engineer types love learning and meticulously understanding the nuances of a problem. They are deliberate, disciplined, and tend to think more strategically than most people. Without others, however, Learners wouldn't get much done. In order to execute their best-laid plans, they need a team ready to act. Their strategy is only as good as the problems they actually solve--not in theory, but in reality.

**Cost:** Has been \$350 plus airfare or hotel and food enroute. Some years the cost is subsidized by donations.

**Medical:** Make sure your tetanus shot is up to date.

**Other:** You will need a US passport.