

H.I.S. OUTREACH HANDBOOK

Helping, Interceding, and Sharing The Love of Christ
An Evangelical Christian Organization
Serving the People of Mexico

H.I.S. OUTREACH HANDBOOK

Dear Friends,

We at H.I.S. Ministries are very excited about your involvement in the in the Lord's work here in Mexico. We are sure that your experience will be a blessing for all involved.

This brief handbook has been put together to communicate to you and your group some hints to help your ministry experience run smoother.

We trust that you will have a joyous and blessed time in Mexico. We believe it to be vital that you come with a servant's heart, being ready to give of yourselves in service to these special people. Your kindness, consideration, and sensitive approach are very much appreciated, as we strive to continue to be a godly example to those we serve.

Our prayer will be that all will have a wonderful and touching experience and that all will be sensitive to the Lord's leading.

May the Lord bless you as you serve the poor with us in Jesus' name!

THINGS TO BRING

Personal Items

Overnight accessories	Sleeping bag and pillow
Bible	Air mattress/foam padding
Note pad and pencil	Coat (seasonal)
Mosquito repellent	Flash light
Camera and film	Snacks and extra cash
Towel and toiletries	Tent

Jobsite Items

Hat or visor	Sunglasses
Sun block	Water cooler with ice
Toilet paper	Tarp to rig as small canopy for shade
First Aid Kit	
Handiwipes	

Tools Required for Building Project

You will need to bring your own tools since none are provided. The quantity you bring will depend on the size of your group and the size of your project.

Generator if needed (call first)	Screw drivers (slot head and Phillips)
Extension cords (heavy duty) 50' or 100'	Carpenters squares or Speed square
Carpenter's belt	Power saw with extra blades
Work gloves	Power drill and 5/8" or 3/4" bit
Chalk line	Sheet rock tools
Pencils	Ladders (step and extension)
Hammers (mill and smooth face)	Paint brushes and rollers with covers
Level – 24" or 48"	Caulking gun
Tape measures (25')	Broom
Cat's paw	
Safety glasses or goggles	<i>Other Suggested Items</i>
8" adjustable wrench	Reciprocating saw
Utility knives	Extra power saw
Chisels	Roller extension handles

HOUSE WARMING GIFT IDEAS

You might like to present your family with some personal touches to their finished home.

Carpet	Toothbrushes and toothpaste
Set of dishes	Blankets and bedding
Pots and pans	Refrigerator and/or propane stove (can be purchased in Mexico)
Mugs, cups, glasses	Toys for the children
Curtains and curtain rods	Tools (any kind)
Utensils/Silverware	Electric hook-up (call for details)
Towels and washcloths	Note: All items in like-new condition!
Storage containers	

GENERAL ITEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE POOR

Many groups bring the following items with them for distribution in the neighborhood. All items must be in a good, useable condition.

- ♥ Canned food
- ♥ Fresh fruit and vegetables
- ♥ Bulk food items, (rice, beans, flour)
- ♥ Blankets
- ♥ Spanish Bibles
- ♥ Spanish Christian literature
- ♥ Baby clothes
- ♥ Hairbrushes and combs
- ♥ Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- ♥ Soap
- ♥ Toys
- ♥ Sports equipment

PERSONAL EXPECTATIONS

To maintain a personal, consistent time with God

This is your strength. The depth of your ministry will be equal to the depth of your relationship with the Lord. You need to spend some time each day reading and praying.

To be above reproach

Your life will be an example to the people of Mexico. We may therefore ask you to stop an activity that may cause a brother or sister to sin, stumble, or get the wrong impression of Christ. You might be the only Jesus someone will ever see. Here are some areas for help:

Dress ~ Wear loose fitting and modest clothing. Due to cultural differences, shorts may not be worn at any time. Please, no tank tops. Men must wear a shirt at all times.

Activities ~ People know you as an American Christian.

- Do not do anything illegal (i.e. trying to smuggle fireworks etc. across the border).
- Show respect for the Mexican people and culture. After lights out, keep noise down. We want to leave a good impression on our neighbors and others in your camp.
- No PDA (public displays of affection), except between husband and wife.
- Obey those in authority.
- Avoid criticism of any kind.
- No smoking or drinking alcohol at any time.
- Play only praise and worship music please.
- No fireworks.

Attitude ~ Your attitude will show through your actions.

- Be patient
- Be humble
- Be cooperative
- Be forgiving
- Be teachable
- Be above the temptation of gossip. Gossip can destroy the work of God within this ministry and your group!

To be reliable

As an example, you need to be faithful, dependable, and consistent as you serve.

- If you are asked to do something, do it.
- Take the initiative to do things. Don't wait for others to do – you do!
- Be where you are asked to be, on time and prepared.

To have a servants heart

As we work together, a servant's heart will be a must to make the best of your time in Mexico.

- Look for ways to serve others.
- If you are done with your job, help someone else.

THE THREE “ESSES”

We here at H.I.S. Ministries have a very specific philosophy in ministry which can be summed up in just three words:

Servanthood:

Putting others first. Seeing to the needs of others before your own. It's easier said than done. It is the foundation of this ministry and we look toward Jesus as our example and strength.

Sacrifice:

It's not always easy giving of yourself. It's hard putting others first. Yet, like Christ, we must put the needs of others at a higher priority than our own.

Salvation:

The fruit of your servanthood and sacrifice. As we share Jesus with others, the ultimate goal is to win others for Christ. Whatever you do, always remember that you could be the only Jesus someone might ever see.

OTHER IMPORTANT CONCERNS

Identification

It is important to carry proper identification with you at all times. You may need to show proof of legal entry to the United States when returning. A driver's license is not proof of citizenship.

Insurance

It is a felony in Mexico to have an accident without Mexican insurance. Even if your own insurance covers you in Mexico, it will not be accepted. Please take the time to purchase insurance before crossing the border. The cost will run from \$8 - \$20 a day per vehicle, depending on the value of each vehicle and coverage purchased.

Traffic Laws

Obeying the traffic laws to the letter will help you avoid any confrontation by local law enforcement in Mexico. People have been stopped and fined for things as minor as not signaling to turn. Strictly obeying the traffic laws should alleviate any police confrontation.

The speed limits in Mexico are in km/hr and not mph. All vehicle speedometers are marked in both km/hr and mph. The maximum speed limit is about 50 mph or 80 km/hr.

Culture

The Mexican people are very observant and keenly aware of your presence. Since this is a Christian ministry, it is expected that your conduct be Christ-like at all times. This is reflected in your actions, speech, behavior, and dress, not only on the job site but around camp as well. Please be respectful of cultural differences.

Please remember that you are visiting a Third World country. Certain precautions should be taken to ensure a safe, enjoyable experience. Please do not wear expensive jewelry or bring valuable equipment which might draw undesirable attention to you or your group. Do not leave your cars unlocked at any time.

It is advisable to drink only bottled or our own well water.

MEXICAN CULTURE

FAMILY TIES: Family ties are strong! The father is the dominant personage. The older members of the family are very respected. The mother is the major unifying force in the family, although she is definitely subservient to the husband.

DISCIPLINE: Small children are not strongly disciplined or inhibited. The common view seems to be that they are too young to understand what should be done; therefore, it is not worthwhile to teach them until they grow up somewhat. (This is not the standard being advocated in the homes of Christians.) Parents are strict with older youth, especially the girls. They are sometimes chaperoned when in mixed company. The girls are expected to maintain a reserve in public.

FRIENDSHIP: Another strong tie is friendships. A friend is as close as a brother. Some friendships are even stronger than family ties. It is one of the strong motivational factors in the lives of the Mexican people. A friend is loyal, giving, to be relied on, there in time of need; a friend's door is always open. The need of a friend is very important; friends will go out of their way to meet each other's needs. Someone's friend will be hired before anyone else. This is why friendship evangelism is so important. We should desire to make friends, then introduce them to our best friend, Jesus.

BOY - GIRL RELATIONSHIPS: Teenage boys are relatively free to come and go. Their friendliness to American girls might be termed "forward", with no encouragement. The proper response by the American girl is to maintain more reserve than her Mexican counterpart. (This results in: American boys work with Mexican boys; American girls work with Mexican girls, ladies, and small children of either sex, boys 10 and under.) Mexican girls do not go places "alone"; American girls do the same in Mexico. Mexican girls generally will not offer to shake hands with any of the boys; American girls will do likewise.

EDUCATION: Most adults in the village have a **maximum of 3 - 6 years** of formal schooling; a number are illiterate, especially the elderly. The youth have had the opportunity of five or six years of schooling, beginning at age 6. The people are uneducated, but not stupid. They are intelligent and possess real wisdom and a keen understanding of human nature. Remember, these adults, though lacking in education, are truly adult in their actions, outlook, and ambitions. They have successfully reared families and are operating in an adult society with all the problems and concerns thereof. You should tailor your preaching and Bible stories to the interests and needs of the Mexican people.

MEXICAN CULTURE (continued)

ATTITUDE: The Mexicans are warm, friendly and courteous. They are curious of strangers and foreigners, and reserved in their response. Parents care what is taught to their children. They are concerned about the attitudes and influences you will have upon their village and their children. Thus, they will watch everything you do, and how you do it, to determine your true motives for being with them.

RELIGION: The Roman Catholic Church has been the dominant church in Mexico for four centuries. This does not mean the people have an understanding of the Roman Catholic Church or its teachings. It does mean that there is an indication of an unseen force in their midst. This has led to an inborn feeling of necessity to do good works to gain merit. The awareness of the "saints" and the "Virgin Mary" as forces for good and of help to them is part of their heritage. To condemn either the saints, the Virgin, or the Roman Catholic Church is to stir up needless questions and dissension, without adding to the gospel message. For many, Biblical knowledge is limited and no Bible truth can be assumed as common knowledge. Scriptural topics must be explained to give them background information. The more educated the Mexican people, the less they follow Roman Catholic tradition.

CLOTHING: The body of a Mexican is to be kept covered. The women wear dresses which have sleeves that cover shoulders. Skirts cover the knees at all times, even when the person is seated. Most little girls will be wearing dresses for play. Boys of four and less often are seen in public entirely naked; this is socially acceptable.

IN TOWN SAFETY: When walking through the downtown city, whether shopping or after using "banos" (showers) it is not safe to alter the dress code because you're hot or because you're now a "tourist". The more you fit into their culture the less hassle you'll encounter.

TIPS FOR CROSSING THE BORDER

Preparation

1. Each person **MUST** have one of the following:
 - a. Proof of US citizenship (birth certificate or passport).
 - b. Proof of foreign citizenship with permanent residence document.
 - c. Proof of foreign citizenship with valid visa.

2. Every **MINOR MUST** have a signed Parental Consent form signed by **BOTH** parents. Not needed if **BOTH** parents are accompanying the child. If only one parent is accompanying the child, the form **MUST** be signed by the other parent. It is **HIGHLY** recommended that you have the completed form notarized.

3. Each driver needs:
 - a. A current driver's license.
 - b. A letter of permission from the vehicle's owner giving specific permission for the driver to drive the vehicle in Mexico (exempt if driver is the owner).

4. Each vehicle needs:
 - a. A current registration certificate.
 - b. Proof of US vehicle insurance.
 - c. A Mexican insurance policy. May be purchased elsewhere, but we recommend AmeriMex Insurance in Tecate, CA. 619-478-9343 or on the web at www.ameri-mex-insurance.com.

What Each Driver Should Know

1. When crossing into Mexico your vehicle and personal belongings may be subject to search. This is customary. **DO NOT** argue with or try to bribe the officials.
2. **DO NOT** stop if you are given a green light while entering Mexico unless told to do so by a Mexican official. Stopping causes traffic jams and brings undo attention to your vehicle.
3. Know that the official status of the group is tourist.
4. Have personal and vehicle documents close at hand.
5. Traffic laws in Mexico are the same as in the United States.
6. Speed limits are in kilometers per hour, **NOT** miles per hour.

What Each Person Should Know

1. To remain quiet while crossing the border, both in and out of Mexico.
2. To speak respectfully and truthfully when spoken to by an official.
3. To **NEVER** offer money or any kind of bribe under any circumstances.

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

I give my permission for my:

____ son (s)
____ daughter (s) _____
____ children _____
(names)

To enter the country of Mexico with the group from _____
(church)
located in _____
(city/state)

This group is under the leadership of _____
(name)

Because my child(ren) is/are under the age of eighteen years (18 yrs) of age, I give my consent as indicated by my signature at the bottom of this document.

I understand that this group is working under the ministry of **H.I.S. Ministries** and was invited there to participate with them in a cross-cultural service project. I further understand that my child(ren) has/have been instructed as to the culture, laws, and regulations of Mexico and he/she/they will comply with all of these instructions.

I also understand that failure to comply with these standards and regulations may result in the termination of a child's involvement with the project and will be sent home at my/our expense.

Signed this day _____

Father Mother

Telephone _____

Emergency Contact _____

Telephone _____

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF VEHICLE

To all American and Mexican officials and agencies of law:

As the registered owner of this vehicle, I give my permission to

 (name of driver)

to use this vehicle. Permission is also granted to any licensed drivers from

_____ : employees, staff and students.
 (church)

As owner I also grant permission to enter Mexico with said vehicle. I am aware that my insurance policy may not be in effect while vehicle is in Mexico.

Signed _____

Date _____

Telephone _____

 Name of Registered Owner _____

Make _____ Model _____

Year _____ Vehicle Color _____

VIN Number _____

License Number _____

Insurance Carrier _____

Policy Number _____

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

May it be known to all men: I, _____
plan to participate with **H.I.S. Ministries** on a short term mission trip in Mexico on these
dates _____

I therefore, do hereby for myself, my family, and any other person or party who acts or speaks on my behalf, release and forever discharge **H.I.S. Ministries** and all of its departments, representatives, missionaries, pastors, and servants (whether full-time, part-time, or volunteers) acting officially or otherwise, from any and all liability and responsibility to compensate or pay for any losses, damage to or otherwise harmed items in my possession; or injury, suffering, or pain of any kind to my person which may occur at any time during my involvement with or transportation to and from **H.I.S. Ministries** activities and/or locations.

Insurance Information

_____ I have medical insurance with _____
Policy number _____

_____ I have NO medical or accident insurance, and I agree to pay for any and all medical and/or dental expenses directly or indirectly related to my participation in the ministry of **H.I.S. Ministries** and its related activities.

I have read the above and agree to this release:

Name _____

Address: _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Signature _____

Parent's Signature (required for participants under the age of 18) Both parents MUST sign.

Father _____

Mother _____

H.I.S. Ministries
STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. ***We believe*** the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, and the only authoritative Word of God.
2. ***We believe*** there is one God, eternally in three persons, namely Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. ***We believe*** in the Deity and virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death upon the cross, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
4. ***We believe*** in the total depravity and lost condition of man by nature, and in his need of the new birth by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit.
5. ***We believe*** in justification by faith apart from the works of the law.
6. ***We believe*** in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling presence, the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
7. ***We believe*** in the resurrection of the saved and the lost. The saved unto the resurrection of life, and the lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
8. ***We believe*** in the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

H.I.S. Ministries is affiliated with
Journey Community Church in La Mesa, California

Contacting H.I.S. Ministries

If you have any questions concerning anything in this booklet or about any of H.I.S. Ministries other ministries and outreaches, please call our United States office at (619) 478-2406 during regular office hours, Pacific time. After hours and on weekends, please contact Jim or Linda Doss at their home in Mexico at 011-52-665-654-4508.

You may also reach us via e-mail at hismin@telnor.net

Our mailing address is:

H.I.S. Ministries
P.O. Box 366
Tecate, CA 91980