

Deliberate 2010.



March 26– April 3, 2010
Student Application

General Info



What is Mexicali?

Mexicali is a city in Mexico, right across the border from Calexico, California. The Student Ministries Department of First Covenant Church has been doing an annual missions trip there since 1986. We have long-term, close relationships with numerous Christian churches in the city. Our goal is to serve alongside these churches as they seek to love their city in the name of Jesus. Our team will help with Vacation Bible School programs, youth outreach events, community service projects, and much more.

Who can go?

Any high school or college age student may apply to be a part of the team. There are certain eligibility requirements, so please complete the application carefully. *Incomplete applications, or applications without the required documents, will not be accepted!*

Adults are also needed to serve as drivers, team leader coaches, base camp staff, and translators. Interested adults should fill out the Adult Application, available online at www.firstcov.org or in the church office.

Where do we stay?

We are hosted by a local church in Mexicali which allows us to set up a base camp on their property. This is a secure, gated area in which we set up tents for sleeping, kitchen facilities in which our base camp crew prepare our meals, a meeting space for team instructions and worship, a nurse's tent, and adequate restroom facilities.

Is it safe?

We take every precaution to ensure the safety of the students. Our camp is only a few miles across the border from California and we have numerous contacts with community and city leaders in Mexicali. Students are assigned to several smaller teams, all of which are led by adults. We have a nursing staff to attend to any medical needs and we can transport more seriously ill students back across the border to a hospital in California if necessary. Our team leaders will be in regular contact with First Covenant and will contact parents in the case of any emergency.

What's the purpose?

The Mexicali trip is one of the ways that we are fulfilling our church's purpose statement:

The purpose of First Covenant Church of Sacramento is to be a **Mission Station**; to **share** the gospel of Jesus Christ with every person everywhere, and to **grow** and **equip** believers into fully devoted followers of Christ.

The Mexicali trip helps to **equip** students with knowledge, skills and opportunities to **share** the love of Jesus with the people in Mexicali and to **grow** in their own faith at the same time. Students will learn to appreciate the characteristics of another culture and will enlarge their worldview as they experience life outside of their comfort zone.

How much does it cost?

Early-bird rate is \$300, paid in full by **January 3, 2010**.

Regular rate is \$350, paid in full by **February 7, 2010**.

All checks should be made payable to: First Covenant Church of Sacramento.

For information on fundraising opportunities, please contact Kellee Baker at 861-2240 or kbaker@firstcov.org.

Other questions???

A **Parents' Meeting** is set for **Saturday, February 13 at 2 PM** to answer additional questions. You may also contact Mark Shetler, Pastor of Student Ministries and Missions at 861-2240 or at mshetler@firstcov.org.

Mexicali 2010 Student Application



Instructions

1. **Please print neatly!** Complete all questions!
2. **Full payment** must be submitted with this Mexicali application. Early Bird rate is \$300 and is due January 3, 2010. Regular rate is \$350 and is due February 7, 2010. For information on fundraising opportunities, please contact Kellee Baker at 861-2240 or kbaker@firstcov.org.
3. A color photocopy of your **passport** or your passport card, or a copy of a completed passport application must be submitted with this Mexicali application. Passport information can be found online at <http://travel.state.gov>.
4. The attached "**First Covenant Permission Slip, Liability Release and Medical Release**" form must be submitted with this application.
5. Parents of minors must submit a notarized "**Permission to Travel Form for Minors**" (attached). You may seek notarization on your own or you may take advantage of free notary service at the Parents' Meeting, Sunday, February 13 at 2 PM.
6. Parents of all minors must sign the attached "**State Department Travel Alert**" acknowledging safety issues for travel into Mexico.

General Information

1. **Full Name** (as on photo ID): _____
2. **Preferred Name:** (if different): _____
3. **Address:** _____
4. **City, State, Zip:** _____
5. **Phone Numbers:** Home _____ Cell _____
6. **Email:** _____
7. **Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy):** _____
8. **T-Shirt Size:** S M L XL 2XL
9. **Grade and School:** _____
10. **Parent's email address:** _____



Emergency Contacts

	Name	Phone	Relationship
1.			
2.			
3.			

Education & Experience Information

1. Rate your Spanish ability (1=can't find the bathroom, 5=translate sermons):

1 2 3 4 5

2. Describe any previous cross-cultural travel/missions experiences you have had.

Team Dynamics Information

1. What roles do you usually take in a team setting? (circle all that apply)

Leader	Captain	Coach
Follower	Co-Captain	Performer
Cheerleader	Bench-warmer	Critic

2. List your greatest strengths and weaknesses in working with a team:

Strengths

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Weaknesses

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Health Information

1. Check your answer for each of the following. Give a full explanation on the reverse side for any marked "yes." (all answers are confidential)
- | | YES | NO |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Are you taking medication under a doctor's direction?
If so, what? _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B. Do you require a special diet?
If so, what? _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C. Do you have any chronic health problems or physical limitations?
If so, what? _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D. Have you ever sought counseling (depression, etc.)?
If so, date(s)? _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| E. Have you ever received treatment for drug or alcohol dependency?
If so, date(s)? _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

References

Please list three people outside of your immediate family who would be a good judge of your spiritual character. They may be contacted during this application process. Two of the three must be adults.

- Name: _____

Relation: _____

Occupation: _____

Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____
- Name: _____

Relation: _____

Occupation: _____

Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____
- Name: _____

Relation: _____

Occupation: _____

Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____



Team Covenant

As a member of the Mexicali 2010 team, I agree to live by the following covenant:

1. I will seek to be a fully devoted follower of Christ.
2. I will faithfully attend worship services.
3. I will faithfully attend Mexicali training meetings. If I must miss a meeting, I will contact Pastor Mark ahead of time at 599-8422 or at mshetler@firstcov.org.
4. I will do everything I can to maintain the unity of the whole Mexicali team (students and adults). I will follow the leaders, refuse to participate in gossip, deal with conflict in a biblical manner (Matthew 5:23-24 and Matthew 18:15-17), and forgive others as I have been forgiven (Colossians 3:13).
5. I will try to be a servant like Jesus was a servant. I will try to remember that this trip isn't about me.
6. I will do everything without complaining or arguing (Philippians 2:14).
7. I will seek to be open to the Holy Spirit, depending on Him and not myself to do the ministry that He has called me to (Zechariah 4:6 and Acts 1:8).

Participant's Signature _____



PERMISSION TO TRAVEL FORM FOR MINORS

Minors under the age of 18 traveling from the United States to any foreign destination, when not accompanied on the trip by parents/guardians, must have a notarized affidavit from the parents/guardians not accompanying the child that:

1. The child is traveling out of the United States with the permission of the parents/guardians.
2. That the non-traveling parents/guardians are aware that the child is leaving on the departure date
3. The name(s) of the person(s) accompanying the child.

If the minor child is leaving the country without either of his or her parents, both parents must provide a notarized signed affidavit as outlined.

First Covenant is asking all minors to have **both parents** sign **the permission form**, which **MUST** be notarized. We have enclosed the forms for you if you are under 18. Please see that it is properly completed and **BRING IT WITH YOU** February 13th. **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO MEXICALI WITHOUT IT!** If only one parent has legal custody, please contact Kellee Baker at 861-2240 , ext. 400 to obtain the correct form.

PERMISSION TO ENTER FOREIGN COUNTRY FOR MINORS (under age 18)

This certifies that _____ has the permission of undersigned parents/guardians to enter **Mexico** (country) to participate in an international project officially sponsored by First Covenant Church of Sacramento on the dates of **March 26 - April 3, 2010**.

Names of the responsible adults that will be accompanying the minor:

1. Mark Shetler

2. Kellee Baker

Signature of mother or guardian: _____

Printed name of mother or guardian: _____

Signature of father or guardian: _____

Printed name of father or guardian: _____

On this _____ day of _____ before me personally came _____

known to me and known by me to be the parent or guardian of _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

State of California

County of _____

On _____ before me, _____
(insert name and title of the officer)

Personally appeared _____

Who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature _____

(Seal)



DATE OF LAST TETANUS SHOT:

FIRST COVENANT CHURCH PERMISSION SLIP, LIABILITY RELEASE, MEDICAL RELEASE, AND MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION AGREEMENT PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

Form fields for participant information: PARTICIPANT'S NAME, BIRTHDATE, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP, ALLERGIES, MEDICAL CONDITIONS, HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY, POLICY #, GROUP #, PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME, HOME PHONE, WORK PHONE.

I expressly consent to the participant's involvement in all activities and events during the calendar year 2009-2010, including, but not limited to, recreational activities, trips, travel, and activities related to missions. The participant agrees to comply with all rules and policies for each activity and event.

I understand that participation in each activity and event involves inherent and other risks of INJURY and DEATH. In consideration for the participant being permitted to be involved in activities, I AGREE TO RELEASE First Covenant Church and its pastors, elders, officers, staff, employees, volunteer workers, attorneys, agents, representatives, affiliates, successors in interest, and assigns (collectively "PROVIDERS") from all liability, in excess of the applicable limits of any insurance providing coverage to PROVIDERS, for injury, death, and property loss and damage that arises out of or results from the activity or event, including all liability which results from the NEGLIGENCE of PROVIDERS, or any other person or cause.

I authorize any person connected with First Covenant Church or the activity or event to administer first aid to the participant, as they deem necessary. I authorize medical and surgical care and transportation to a medical facility or hospital for treatment necessary for the participant's wellbeing, at my expense.

I agree to submit any claim or dispute that arises out of or results from the activity or event to mediation, and, if mediation is not successful, to legally binding arbitration. The mediation and legally binding arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation. Judgment upon an arbitration award may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction.

This agreement is binding upon the participant's heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns. I acknowledge this agreement is governed by the applicable laws of the State of California. If any provision of this agreement is held in whole or in part to be unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of that provision and of the entire agreement will be severable and remain in effect.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND, AND VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO THIS LIABILITY RELEASE, MEDICAL RELEASE, AND MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION AGREEMENT.

Form fields for signature and date: PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE, DATE.

Parent/guardian: If participant is a minor, I verify that I am the parent or guardian of the minor, and I have authority to enter into this agreement on behalf of the participant.

Form fields for signature and date: PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE, DATE.

This information is current as of today, Fri Nov 13 10:48:03 2009.

Mexico - Security

August 20, 2009

The Department of State has issued this Travel Alert to update security information for U.S. citizens traveling to and living in Mexico. It supersedes the Travel Alert for Mexico dated February 20, 2009, and expires on February 20, 2010.

While millions of U.S. citizens safely visit Mexico each year (including tens of thousands who cross the land border every day for study, tourism or business), violence in the country has increased. It is imperative that travelers understand the risks of travel to Mexico, how best to avoid dangerous situations, and who to contact if one becomes a crime victim. Common-sense precautions such as visiting only legitimate business and tourist areas during daylight hours, and avoiding areas where prostitution and drug dealing might occur, can help ensure that travel to Mexico is safe and enjoyable.

Recent violent attacks have caused the U.S. Embassy to urge U.S. citizens to delay unnecessary travel to parts of Michoacán and Chihuahua (see details below) and advise U.S. citizens residing or traveling in those areas to exercise extreme caution. Drug cartels and associated criminal elements have retaliated violently against individuals who speak out against them or whom they otherwise view to be a threat to their organization, regardless of the individuals' citizenship. These attacks include the abduction and murder of two resident U.S. citizens in Chihuahua in July, 2009.

Violence Along the U.S. - Mexico Border

Mexican drug cartels are engaged in violent conflict - both among themselves and with Mexican security services - for control of narcotics trafficking routes along the U.S.-Mexico border. In order to combat violence, the government of Mexico has deployed military troops in various parts of the country. U.S. citizens should cooperate fully with official checkpoints when traveling on Mexican highways.

Some recent Mexican army and police confrontations with drug cartels have resembled small-unit combat, with cartels employing automatic weapons and grenades. Large firefights have taken place in towns and cities across Mexico, but occur mostly in northern Mexico, including Tijuana, Chihuahua City, Monterrey and Ciudad Juarez. During some of these incidents, U.S. citizens have been trapped and temporarily prevented from leaving the area. The U.S. Mission in Mexico currently restricts non-essential travel within the state of Durango, the northwest quadrant of Chihuahua and an area southeast of Ciudad Juarez, and all parts of the state of Coahuila south of Mexican Highways 25 and 22 and the Alamos River for US Government employees assigned to Mexico. This restriction was implemented in light of the recent increase in assaults, murders, and kidnappings in those three states. The situation in northern Mexico remains fluid; the location and timing of future armed engagements cannot be predicted.

A number of areas along the border are experiencing rapid growth in the rates of many types of crime. Robberies, homicides, petty thefts, and carjackings have all increased over the last year across Mexico generally, with notable spikes in Tijuana and northern Baja California. Ciudad Juarez, Tijuana and Nogales are among the cities which have experienced public shootouts during daylight hours in shopping centers and other public venues. Criminals have followed and harassed U.S. citizens traveling in their vehicles in border areas including Nuevo Laredo, Matamoros, and Tijuana.

The situation in the state of Chihuahua including Ciudad Juarez is of special concern. The U.S. Consulate General recommends that American citizens defer non-essential travel to the Guadalupe Bravo area southeast of Ciudad Juarez and to the northwest quarter of the state of Chihuahua including the city of Nuevo Casas Grandes and surrounding communities. From the United States, these areas are often reached through the Columbus, NM and Fabens and Fort Hancock, TX ports-of-entry. In both areas, American citizens have been victims of drug related violence.

Mexican authorities report that more than 1,000 people have been killed in Ciudad Juarez in the first six-months of 2009. Additionally, this city of 1.6 million people experienced more than 17,000 car thefts and 1,650 carjackings in 2008. U.S. citizens should pay close attention to their surroundings while traveling in Ciudad Juarez, avoid isolated locations during late night and early morning hours, and remain alert to news reports. Visa and other service seekers visiting the Consulate are encouraged to make arrangements to pay for those services using a non-cash method.

U.S. citizens are urged to be alert to safety and security concerns when visiting the border region. Criminals are armed with a wide array of sophisticated weapons. In some cases, assailants have worn full or partial police or military uniforms and have used vehicles that resemble police vehicles. While most crime victims are Mexican citizens, the uncertain security situation poses serious risks for U.S. citizens as well. U.S. citizen victims of crime in Mexico are urged to contact the consular section of the nearest U.S. consulate or Embassy for advice and assistance. Contact information is provided at the end of this message.

Crime and Violence Throughout Mexico

Although the greatest increase in violence has occurred on the Mexican side of the U.S. border, U.S. citizens traveling throughout Mexico should exercise caution in unfamiliar areas and be aware of their surroundings at all times. Bystanders have been injured or killed in violent attacks in cities across the country, demonstrating the heightened risk of violence in public places. In recent years, dozens of U.S. citizens living in Mexico have been kidnapped and most of their cases remain unsolved. U.S. citizens who believe they are being targeted for kidnapping or other crimes should notify Mexican officials, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, or the nearest American Consulate as soon as possible. Any U.S. visitor who suspects they are a target should consider returning to the United States immediately.

U.S. citizens should make every attempt to travel on main roads during daylight hours, particularly the toll ("cuota") roads, which generally are more secure. When warranted, the U.S. Embassy and consulates advise their employees as well as private U.S. citizens to avoid certain areas, abstain from driving on certain roads because of dangerous conditions or criminal activity, or recommend driving during daylight hours only. When this happens, the Embassy or the affected consulate will alert the local U.S. citizen Warden network and post the information on their respective websites, indicating the nature of the concern and the expected time period for which the restriction will remain in place.

U.S. citizen visitors are encouraged to stay in the well-known tourist areas. Travelers should leave their itinerary with a friend or family member not traveling with them, avoid traveling alone, and check with their cellular provider prior to departure to confirm that their cell phone is capable of roaming on GSM or 3G international networks. Do not display expensive-looking jewelry, large amounts of money, or other valuable items.

Demonstrations and Large Public Gatherings

Demonstrations occur frequently throughout Mexico and usually are peaceful. However, even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate to violence unexpectedly. Violent demonstrations have resulted in deaths, including that of an American citizen in Oaxaca in 2006. In 2008, a Mexican Independence Day celebration was the target of a violent attack. During demonstrations or law enforcement operations, U.S. citizens are advised to remain in their homes or hotels, avoid large crowds, and avoid the downtown and surrounding areas. Since the timing and routes of scheduled marches and demonstrations are always subject to change, U.S. citizens should monitor local media sources for new developments and exercise extreme caution while within the vicinity of protests.

The Mexican Constitution prohibits political activities by foreigners, and such actions may result in detention and/or deportation. U.S. citizens are therefore advised to avoid participating in demonstrations or other activities that might be deemed political by Mexican authorities. As is always the case in any large gathering, U.S. citizens should remain alert to their surroundings.

I have read and understand this Travel Alert and hereby hold First Covenant Church of Sacramento and its agents harmless from the possible dangers of travel to and from Mexico.

Student's Name (Please print)

Parent or Guardian Signature
(or Participant's signature if 18 or older)

Date

Mexicali Training Schedule



PLEASE DETACH THIS PAGE AND KEEP FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS!!!

Saturday, February 13	9 AM-3 PM (please bring money for lunch) Parent's Meeting 2 PM - 3 PM
Sunday, February 21	2-5 PM
Sunday, February 28	2-5 PM
Sunday, March 7	2-5 PM (Spanish Test)
Sunday, March 14	2-5 PM
Sunday, March 21	Commissioning in all services 8 AM– 12:45 PM Training 2-5 PM ONLY IF NECESSARY

If you have a legitimate reason why you need to miss one of these training meetings, it is your responsibility to contact Mark Shetler at 599-8422 or mshetler@firstcov.org before the meeting.