

MEXICO MISSIONS

A brief description

CONSTRUCTION TRIPS

Location: Medical Clinic in Ocosingo

Since 2005, one of the Mexico Missions construction weeks has been to work on building a medical clinic facility on the outskirts of Ocosingo. This non-governmental clinic will be a much less expensive medical alternative for the inhabitants of the state of Chiapas and will provide opportunity for medical people from the United States to donate their services in a facility that they know in advance will have equipment that they need.

Completion of the clinic is expected in 2009. It will contain a pharmacy, examination rooms, and some of the specialized equipment necessary to be a bonafide medical clinic. The completion of phase one will allow the clinic to open and begin offering medical services.

Mission travelers working on this project live at the Alpha Omega Bible School, directly next door to the medical clinic construction site. Living quarters are the student dormitories of the Bible School and include cots, showers, bathrooms, dining room. **The “cots” are wooden frames covered with a blanket. Those working on Medical Clinic Construction in Ocosingo should bring a twin-sized air mattress.** While it may be more like being at camp than it is like living at home, it provides a good introduction to life, culture and missions in Mexico.

Food and beverages are carefully prepared to minimize chances of illness for the workers.

Conducting Bible school for the children and worship services for the adults is a big part of what makes the experience so meaningful, with translators assisting with the communications issues.

CONSTRUCTION TRIPS

Location: Rural Chiapas

This week is usually in a fairly remote, small village of Chiapas, often high in the mountains where nights are quite cool, but sometimes in the lowlands where heat is the experience day and night. The physically taxing construction projects are typically working on a new church, an expansion of a church's facilities, a home, a school, or a community building.

Mission travelers living arrangements are more primitive. Sleeping is in cots or hammocks. Bathing takes place in temporary, make-do showers or from buckets of water in a temporary-built-for-the-occasion private stall. Bathrooms are functional, but not at all fancy.

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Medical Mission Weeks

The two weeks of the Medical Mission experience are providing basic medical care for the rural villages of the state of Chiapas. The patients are typically poor farmers who live high in the mountains, people who probably have never seen a doctor or a nurse before. This temporary medical clinic is set up in a Presbyterian Church and the medical staff is doctors, nurses, and pharmacists from the United States along with Mexican trained paramedics and nurses. Non-medical people are also needed to support the many clerical tasks required to operate such a clinic.

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