



## Frequently Asked Questions Building Hope Mexico Mission Trip 2017 July 29 – August 5



**What is AMOR?** AMOR is the organization we will use to provide for our Mission Trip to Mexico. AMOR has been providing Mission Trips in Mexico for over 30 years. Amor's mission is to meet the tangible needs of the poor as a vehicle to share the love of Jesus with families and keep them together. Amor does this by providing homes, as well as food, clothing, backpacks filled with school supplies, Christmas presents, winter relief items like blankets and jackets, and water filters. The solution is completed by thousands of volunteers from all over the world that participate on an Amor Mission Trip. The Amor Mission Trip consists of a house building project, outreach opportunities, and an opened door for the local pastors to teach the families about Jesus. Amor aims to provide each missions team with the tools and resources that are necessary to build a home for a needy family. Amor carefully selects the home site, provides standard building plans, and equips each group to complete a home within a few days. While on your Amor Mission Trip, missions teams will stay in Amor maintained camps with conditions similar to those of the families they are serving. They have no electricity and no running water, sleep outside in tents, and each person receives 2 gallons of water for bucket showers each day. Find out more about AMOR at <http://www.amor.org/>

**How do we get to Mexico?** We travel in rented vans and personal vehicles, driving from WGUMC to San Diego on Saturday, and crossing the border on Sunday. In addition to carrying passengers, the vans carry our camping and personal gear, our kitchen, food and water, and our building tools and equipment (except those that we rent in Mexico).

**Who drives?** Each vehicle has a designated driver and a backup driver. These individuals will be assigned close to the departure date. Every adult over 25 should be prepared to drive, so bring your driver's license and driving glasses.

**Do we need passports?** Yes. Beginning June 1, 2009, the U.S. government implemented the full requirements of the land and sea phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). The proposed rules require most U.S. citizens entering the United States at sea or land ports of entry to have a passport, passport card, or [WHTI-compliant document](#).

**Do we need shots?** Travel to Mexico does not require extra immunizations. Our mission, however, requires a current tetanus shot. Check with your own health provider for other recommendations.

**How far will we be from the border? How far will we camp from our building site?** Our campsite will probably be 15 or 20 miles from the border, which is typically a 45 minute drive depending on city traffic, border crossing and local road conditions. Our building sites will probably be 20-45 minutes or so from the campsite. See map that shows general location of the Amor camp locations. We will most likely be at the Tijuana camp, located east of Tijuana off Route 20.



**What is the camping facility like?** Imagine a gravel parking lot, or large grassy field. No tables, no trees, no electricity, no running water. Port-a-potties are kept extremely clean, and an enclosure is provided for bucket and SunShower showers.

**What is the camp set-up like?** Each family brings and sets up their own tent in a semi-circle around our campfire and cooking area. We all work together to set up several large awnings, several large tables and gas stoves that become the kitchen, serving area for our meals, and hand-washing stations. Our camping chairs around the campfire become the dining room.

**What about drinking water?** AMOR Ministries provides purified water at camp for drinking. Large water coolers at each building site are refilled at our campsite each morning by members of the site's building team. Each team member must bring their own insulated water bottle. We drink a gallon or more of water each day to keep healthy and hydrated.

**What about showers?** We fill our SunShowers (or buckets) from local water provided by AMOR. It is ***not*** drinking water so don't brush your teeth with it, or shower with your mouth open! AMOR provides about 2 gallons per person per day for showering. Believe it or not, it is enough for an adult with long hair to clean up quite nicely.

**What about food?** The cooking and food committee plans and shops for all the food we will consume in Mexico. All team members are assigned to do a turn or two preparing, cooking, and cleaning up from meals. Work-site snacks are provided each morning and afternoon. Accepting food from your families is not recommended. We provide vegetarian options. You need to tell our food crew about any special food needs and note requests on registration form.

**What if I don't have all the camping equipment listed on the gear list?** We recommend that everyone bring the gear that will make them comfortable for the trip. However, since there are many people who have made this trip before, it is possible to borrow equipment from others. Please indicate on your registration form if you need to borrow equipment and we will help find what you need.

**What about safety?** Amor has built a strong presence in Mexico over these past 35 years through excellent relations with the local government, the police, and the communities we serve. Because of these relationships, they are equipped to deal with any and all safety issues that might arise. As Amor has continued to add Amor Mission Trips in new locations in Delmas, South Africa and San Carlos, Arizona, they have carried this very same practice of working with the government, police, and the communities to make sure they are abreast on all possible safety issues. Each policy, practice, and the like regarding security and safety is preventative and proactive.

Recent news stories about personal safety in the regions Amor serves have made the headlines and may be a source of concern for parents and leaders of future Amor Mission Trip participants. They are convinced more than ever, that there is work to do in the poorest communities worldwide but they will not put their participants at risk to do so. From campsite security to staff escorts, Amor oversees every aspect of our time in the area to ensure the team's safety and asks that we stay within in their suggested routes and follow their procedures for safe travel.

**Will we do any sightseeing?** We will spend the majority of our time in Mexico working in neighborhoods and seeing the country from an entirely different perspective. There will be no stops at tourist attractions. If anything, we will be the attraction and local vendors will seek us out to sell us some souvenirs. Sightseeing will be done from the vans on the way to and from the work site each day.

**Am I too young or too old for this trip?** There are no age limits on doing this work. However, this is a physically strenuous trip which requires that you be able to spend entire days in the sun and heat. The terrain can also be extremely rocky and steep. For younger children, we recommend that children have at least finished kindergarten and are able to take directions from adults other than their parents in order to keep them safe and involved in the project.

**What if I have more questions?** The following people went on the trip in 2013 or 2015 and would be happy to talk with you about their experience and answer any questions you may have:

Stephanie Freeman	(stefannyfanny@yahoo.com; 408-507-6476)
Liz Pense	(eapense@sbcglobal.net; 408-768-6507)
Garret SeEVERS	(gseevers@mac.com; 408-332-1576)
Craig Ramsay	(craigramsay@gmail.com; 415-225-7220)
Sue Bowling	(csbowling@mac.com; 408-01-2190)
Melody and Jack Ackerman	(ackjackandmelody@sbcglobal.net; 408-879-0582)

**What is involved in being a member of the mission team?** There is always something to do on a mission trip. In addition to building a house, we are building relationships with one another and our Mexican families. We are also caring for other as a community. The following list is provided as an example of the variety of tasks we will be involved in. As you can see, there are many gifts needed to make this project happen – and not one person will have them all. We need you and your gifts!

- † Read the building plans † Pump gas for vehicles † Assist driver with navigation †
- † Collect passports at check points into and out of Mexico † Hammer a nail †
- † Use a measuring tape † Take inventory of building materials † Cut and fold tar paper †
- † Saw a 2 X 4 lumber after measuring twice † Mix concrete by hand † Hold up a wall †
- † Push a wheelbarrow – sometimes empty, sometime full † Climb on the bare walls †
- † Encourage a friend † Sift gravel from sand † Fetch water to mix the concrete †
- † Lift the concrete bags † Rinse out construction equipment and clean tools †
- † Organize tools for your crew † Listen to a friend † Fill water coolers for drinking †
- † Share a smile † Fill water cooler for hand washing † Load snack box for your crew †
- † Make your own lunch † Spread and smooth stucco on walls † Nail roof paper †
- † Install windows and door † Signal water breaks † Move wood and supplies †
- † Play with children at the construction site † Pitch a tent † Make a camp fire †
- † Fill up your solar shower with water † Shop at local market for meals †
- † Cut up vegetable/fruit/bread for the evening meal † Make coffee in the morning †
- † Set out food for meals † Flip burger/steaks on the BBQ † Stretch chicken wire †
- † Wash pots/pans/serving utensils from cooking evening meal † Turn a jump rope †
- † Take campsite trash to camp ground dumpster † Pray and listen to God † Play guitar †
- † Drive a van on dirt roads † Sing campfire songs † Read the Bible † Kick a soccer ball †
- † Organize and inventory camp food for shopping list † Enjoy good food for dinner †
- † Speak Spanish with family or while shopping in the local market † Hug a friend †
- † Make s'mores † Know first aid † Take aspirin for body aches †
- † Talk about your day † Watch the stars at night † Sleep like a rock †