

# The Call to Mexico 2010

## Information Packet #1

“The Cross” by Arthur Blessitt—a pastor who felt called to carry a wooden cross in every country in the world. He ended up carrying it for over 38,000 miles over a 38 year time span. What can we learn from his extravagant mission?

- Take it one step at a time. Break down large challenges into small, simple steps.
- Ask Jesus what to do and where to go in your life: get in the habit of listening for God’s voice and then saying yes.
- By being servants of Christ we are bearing our own cross which means we are to follow Jesus even if it means difficulties in our own life.
- The question before us is not if but **how**. When Jesus calls you to follow ask “how” questions and not “if” questions.
- Stay focused on Jesus: Desire to act on what Jesus says rather than react to criticism.
- Our hope is in Jesus and not in solving the world’s problems.
- Instead of talking about Christianity focus on Christ and the love and grace of God.
- Expect miracles; ask for them!
- Make it a pilgrimage rather than a house building trip or a road trip. A pilgrimage is a journey with a spiritual purpose.
- You are an ambassador for Jesus, be one by serving the people around you whether friend or foe for all people are God’s people.
- Give God the glory!
- Tear down the walls that hold you back from serving. Our external walls can be the news of violence and disease, prejudice, religious differences, etc. Our internal walls can be feelings of inadequately, guilt, etc. Walls are not constructed by Jesus but by us.
- Give God your best, Jesus is worthy of that as he gave his best and his all for us.
- Beware of your sinful self that wants to make God a blesser of your plans rather than a giver of His plans. Consult, Confirm, Compare.

*“Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.*

*When I was an infant at my mother’s breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.*

*We don’t see things clearly. We’re squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won’t be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We’ll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!*

*But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.”* 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 (The Message)

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# Mexico 2010 Countdown!

Dec. 2009	We registered with Amor.
Jan. 24	Kick it off and count heads. Or is that, count it off and kick heads?
January/February	Encourage people to come along.
March/April/May	Fund raising
April 24	SMAC(K) work day
March 15	60% of Amor payment due
May 5	Deadline to know how many are going on mission
May 22	Car Wash
<b>May Wednesdays</b>	Team building and training sessions
<b>May 30</b>	All paperwork and passports due.
June 3	Final Amor payment due
Friday June 11th	Sending service and pack vehicles. Lock-in for youth passengers so travel can start at 6 am on the 12th
Saturday June 12th	Travel to Las Vegas and stay at a church there.
Sunday June 13th	Travel from Las Vegas to San Diego picking up anybody at the airport that is flying. Cross over into Tijuana and set up camp at the AMOR campground.
June 14-17	Build home and do SBS.
Evening of the 17th	Cross border to USA, drop off people at airport and stay at a KOA campground in San Diego.
Friday June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Rest day in San Diego.
Saturday June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Drive to June Lake and camp there.
Sunday June 20th	Drive Home.
Sunday June 27	Celebration Worship Service and Taco Feed

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# What are we getting ourselves into?

1. All participants need to make their best effort to attend all team training sessions. We are here to share this experience together and to keep the mission foremost in the minds of our congregations.
2. All participants need to make their best effort to be involved in all the fund raising events. We want everyone to “own” this trip by investing their time and efforts to make it happen. Plus, those unable to go can personally participate. With everyone working together we will foster unity of purpose in the whole body at Hope.
3. Everyone will need up to date immunizations, especially the tetanus shot and a PASSPORT for the border crossing.
4. Everyone who is 18 years old by June 20 must fill out a state background check form and give it to Chuck, along with the \$10 filing fee, at least two weeks before we leave.

## 5. COST PER INDIVIDUAL:

<b>AMOR</b>	<b>\$230</b>
<b>VEHICLES (Gas and ins.)</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>FOOD</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>CAMPING</b>	<b>\$ 35</b>
<b>FAMILY GIFTS</b>	<b>\$ 30</b>
<b>MISC.</b>	<b><u>\$ 20</u></b>
<b>Total for Trip*</b>	<b>\$ 515</b>

\*Participants will want to bring personal cash for snacks, souvenirs and to supplement the \$5 given for fast food while on the road.

6. **PASSPORTS:** At [http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/forms/ds11/ds11\\_842.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/forms/ds11/ds11_842.html) scroll to the bottom of the page and click on “If you so choose, you may download and manually complete the DS-11 form” then print a form for everybody who needs one in your family. After you fill it out take the form, a checkbook (they don’t take credit cards), a parent if you are a minor (older siblings or step parents don’t work), your birth certificate (the real one, not a photocopy), and your drivers license if you have one to the main post office in Boise (off River St., 433-4308). For \$15 they take your photo there which seems steep but is the safest bet. If you want to avoid waiting in a long line do not show up on a Friday or any day after 2 pm.

PLEASE DON’T PUT THIS OFF UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE BECAUSE IT TAKES TIME TO GET A PASSPORT AND YOU CAN’T GO WITHOUT ONE!

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## Safety in Mexico with Amor Ministries

Recently news stories about personal safety in Mexico have made the headlines and may be a source of concern for parents and leaders of future trip participants planning to stay and work in Mexico.

**We want you to know that Amor Ministries has always been proactive about safety matters.**

For the past 29 years, Amor Ministries has worked hard to provide the best security and safety for all individuals involved in our ministry. Amor Ministries considers the safety of our groups and team members its first priority. Everything we do regarding security and safety is preventative and proactive.

**Amor has built a strong presence in Mexico over these past 28 years through excellent relations with the local government, the police and the communities we serve. Because of these relationships we are equipped to deal with any and all safety issues that might arise.**

**Amor Ministries preventative security measures include:**

1. Amor has a border evacuation plan in place at all times should the need arise to leave the field quickly. This evacuation plan also includes medical emergencies.
2. Amor works hard to coordinate with the governmental agencies in Mexico in order to make an international mission trip safe and smooth.
3. Amor has communication plans in place with local police as to when and where our groups are working resulting in increased police patrols in the areas Amor works in.
4. Amor Team Members, along with the Mexican police and fire department, are constantly monitoring the safety of Amor groups.
5. Amor requires groups to stop working during the day to ensure that there is enough time for them to return to camp before sundown. We recommend that the groups remain in camp overnight and that all travel be limited between camp and the worksite. Reported areas of violence are avoided, as they would be in any American city or urban area.
6. Amor groups are led into the community by an Amor Team Member with Amor Field Specialists available around the clock in case of an emergency.
7. Amor is warmly welcomed into the community. The Mexican communities we work in know our vehicles because we have built homes in the area before. Our local Mexican Pastors pay close attention to what is going on in their own neighborhoods, and notify us when they feel that we should avoid a particular area.
8. Amor's campgrounds are gated and patrolled with camp caretakers. We have camp identification tags for each car traveling into Mexico and only allow vehicles with these tags into our camps.
9. Amor Groups have the capacity to be reached via radio or mobile phone if there is an emergency. We maintain a 24 hour emergency line at Amor's office should anyone need to get a hold of a group for extreme emergencies.

**We are more convinced than ever that there is work to do in the communities of Mexico and that God still desires us to serve there. We continue to have faith in God to direct our steps into the areas in which we serve. We ask that you continue to pray for the families living in Mexico who are struggling without hope.**

**Scott and Gayla Congdon**

[www.amor.org](http://www.amor.org)

# Mexico Team

Mission Leader: Chuck

- Coordinate all leaders for mission.

Prayer Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Fund Raising: Hope: Chuck

Me too: \_\_\_\_\_

- The goal is to raise \$515 per person going on the trip.

Equipment Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

- To collect and organize all the tools, camping gear and vehicles needed to make the trip.

Mechanic: \_\_\_\_\_

- Will prepare the Hope van and utility trailers for the long drive.

Gift box for family: \_\_\_\_\_

- Will organize the collection of items for the family we are building for this year.

Logistics Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

- Will make reservations at campsites along our route as well as print out maps for drivers and plan trip details.

Medical Supplies: \_\_\_\_\_

- Will organize medical kit(s) for the trip.

Food Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

- Coordinate with trip cook and help in planning of menus and purchasing of and packing food.

Tech Guru: \_\_\_\_\_

- Help set up, advise and/or train for having a blog for this mission trip

Lock-in Chaperones: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Leaders on the Mission**

Cooks (Kooks): \_\_\_\_\_

SBS (Street Bible School) Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Building Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Devotions Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Song Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

“Nurse”: \_\_\_\_\_

- Take care of medical needs on the trip, be the “water nazi”, etc.

Photographer: \_\_\_\_\_

Blog Manager: \_\_\_\_\_