

BAJA MISSIONS

CHAPULTEPEC ♦ MANADERO ♦ SAN QUINTIN ♦ SAN VICENTE ♦ EL ZORRILLO
VICENTE GUERRERO ♦ COLONIA 89 ♦ CAMALU ♦ COLONET

BAJA MISSIONS 2012 TEAM HANDBOOK

The purpose of this Handbook is to provide as much information as possible about the Baja Missions program and answer questions about travel, service opportunities, plans, preparations, and requirements for the July 21st through July 28th mission trip. If you have other questions or needs please see the following Team Leaders:

Baja Missions Team Leaders

Clint and Scheryl Moore/Jason and Laura Couch

Please read all sections to fully understand and prepare for the work in the Baja. Some information is repeated for emphasis. Thanks to the Mayfair, Monrovia, and Vaughn Park churches, the City of Children, and to Lipscomb University for borrowed text, forms, and information to prepare this Handbook. Sections of this Handbook are from the Baja Missions, Incorporated Handbook provided by the Mayfair Church of Christ.

PREPARING FOR BAJA MISSIONS 2012

THE FACTS

- Dates: July 21st through July 28th
Team: Cincinnati, OH and Philadelphia, PA Churches of Christ
Missions: Evangelism, Benevolence, Construction, Health, Children's classes and activities, & Others
Destinations: San Diego, California (airport destination – transfer to bus)
Tijuana, Mexico (border crossing)
Ensenada (City of Children)
Camalu, Baja California, Mexico
Cost: \$500.00 per person includes: lodging, most meals, ground transportation (*NOT air fare*)
Deposit: \$100 deposit and completed application by January 28, 2012
Age: Minimum – must be entering high school (ninth grade) in fall 2012
Documents: **Passport required**
Skills: Loving, caring, sharing, feeding, playing, teaching, visitation, construction, medical, dental, worshipping, & others
Luggage: One carry-on bag & one suitcase to be checked (supply box/suitcase will be assigned for check in as second bag – list of contents provided) (50 pounds maximum for each checked bag/box).
Pack: Jeans/T-shirts/work clothes, sturdy shoes, casual church clothes, light jacket, cap, sun-screen, toiletries, anti-bacterial supplies, Bible, notebook, camera, personal hand tools, favors, extra spending money for benevolence, purchased meals, & souvenirs
Needs: More information about specific needs for Camalu will be provided in team meetings.

THE PURPOSE

BAJA MISSIONS

Mayfair Church of Christ in Huntsville, Alabama began helping to establish Churches of Christ in Baja California, Mexico (Baja) in the spring of 1997. Stan Stout, the director of the City of Children, Ensenada, Baja took six Mayfair members to San Quintin, Baja, to see what the needs were there. These members volunteered to bring back a team to pour the concrete floors and put a roof on the church building. Mayfair also volunteered to take over the spiritual and financial support of Mario and Lucia Bañuelos, the preacher at San Quintin and his wife.

Over the intervening years, congregations have been established at other locations in the Baja: El Zorillo, San Vicente, Maneadero, Vicente Guerrero, Camalu, and Colonia 89. Each of these congregations is supported by congregations in the United States. New churches have been planted in Chapultapac and Colonet. The Mayfair elders now oversee the work of Baja Missions, Incorporated, a new non-profit corporation established to continue the Baja Missions work. To learn more about the Baja Missions work visit the Mayfair website at www.mayfair.org or the new Baja Missions website at www.bajamissions.us.

CITY OF CHILDREN

With the devoted work of Stan and Carole Stout along with Ricardo and Patty Gonzalez, the City of Children has been rescuing children for over 25 years. These children come from all over Baja, Mexico, leaving a life of abandonment, abuse, neglect or even worse situations. Many churches of Christ, individuals, and other groups provide these children with an opportunity to have a stable environment, while receiving an education, spiritual nourishment, meals, health care and lots of love. Located in Ensenada, Mexico, 75 miles south of Tijuana, teens and adults have the privilege to travel to the City of Children each summer. They provide Vacation Bible School for the children at night, have the opportunity to be involved in work projects, to play with and love these special children. Many Mexican children have been saved, and hearts have been touched around the world because of God's refuge for his children in Ensenada, Mexico.

The City of Children has not only taken care of the orphans of the Baja it has helped to establish and nourish churches of Christ for the families of the Baja. Through Stan's leadership the Baja Missions was established and continues to grow. It is now managed separately from the City of Children, but will always have the City as its "home". Please visit their website at www.cityofchildren.com.

PEOPLE OF THE BAJA

We have found the people of the Baja to be warm, friendly, interested in the Gospel and the church, in need of assistance but also wanting to serve, willing to work, and, most of all, wanting to be new brothers and sisters in Christ.

MISSION

"...go and make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." – Matthew 28:19

PURPOSE

To work with and assist Baja Missions in meeting the needs of the people and the churches in the Baja by personally visiting and serving them with Christ as our example.

GOALS

1. To serve God in whatever way He leads us to serve the people in the Baja.
2. To have a safe and productive mission trip that gives God the Glory for all that is done.
3. To minister to the church in Camalu by providing a health clinic, building/repairing houses, distributing food/clothes, visiting homes, worshipping, teaching classes, teaching individuals, playing with children, and anything else the Lord leads the team to do.
4. To complete the building of a new church facility and help the new church in Camalu continue to grow.
5. To visit the other Baja churches in Ensenada, Maneadero, El Zorrillo, San Vicente, Colonet, Vicente Guerrero, and San Quintin and encourage them as much as possible.
6. To train future Baja Missions leaders.
7. To plan for future Baja Missions trips.

GOD'S PLAN

God created each one of us lovingly with a plan in mind for our lives. To that end, He gifted us with a unique personality and set of abilities. God, by His very nature, is missional. He originates the mission, and it is a mission of reconciliation. Though it is almost incomprehensible, God established His plan for reconciliation before creation! Paul tells us in Ephesians 1:4 that we were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world so that we might be holy and blameless. God intends for the world to know Him and His character when we manifest His holiness by the lives that we live.

Short-term mission trips give us a taste of how God can use us when we make ourselves available to Him. We get so busy in our normal, every day lives that we sometimes forget what is most important. Use this experience as an opportunity to set into place the kind of spiritual disciplines that will cause you to reflect in the first moment of every day that the only reason to live is to bring glory to God in whatever we do.

Your life will be changed through this experience. Some of you will experience radical changes in terms of the direction of your vocational life. Some of you will decide that more than anything else, you want to be a missionary – spending all of your time and effort telling others of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Others of you will come home with the same sense of what you want to do, but with an increased passion and spirituality in doing it. The important thing is not to forget what God can do through you when you make yourself available to Him – no matter what you are doing.

BEHAVIOR

Guidelines are helpful tools. They allow us to identify basic behavioral expectations for all team members and leaders participating in mission efforts. As you consider these guidelines, remember that above all, you are representing the kingdom of God to people who may have little or no exposure to it. You may be the only visible portrayal of a dedicated disciple of Christ Jesus that some will encounter. We pray that you will take to heart Paul's words, *“Live wisely among those who are not Christians, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and effective so that you will have the right answer for everyone.”* (Col.

4:5,6 - *NLT*). Jesus wants our light to shine in such a way that the world sees the glory of God through us at all times.

We believe in the principle of praising God in all things, therefore:

We encourage every team to set aside time daily for praise, prayer, worship, and encouragement. While at times this may not be possible, any team that doesn't pray and worship together is missing out on its greatest source of power.

We believe in the principle of unity of the Spirit, therefore:

Each worker is to understand that he/she is not to promote his/her ideas that could potentially disrupt unity within the team. All will be expected to speak only favorably of other team members, the local congregation, and local workers. If problems arise that need to be confronted, these are to be resolved immediately in a way that manifests love and concern.

We believe in the principle of working together in community, therefore:

Any behavior that disrupts the sense of community within the team is strongly discouraged. This is similar to the principle of unity, but we want to state the importance of team building. Leaders and team members will make decisions and commitments for the team as a whole. No single member may make such commitments for themselves or the team without the approval of the team.

We believe that humility is a foundational Christian attribute, therefore:

We should all remember that we are guest in the hosts' country. With humility in mind, we will be culturally sensitive and never arrogant about "how things are in America." We will be open to learning how things are done in other cultures, appreciating what is offered – such as food (even if we don't like it!), and manifesting a continual spirit of submission to God and others.

We believe that our love for one another will show the world we are disciples of Jesus, therefore:

We ask you to intentionally think of ways to show your love and appreciation for all members of the team and for all those in the local congregations with whom you work. Please be aware that comments made in jest can be taken in negative ways. Once again, personality conflicts and other problems between team members are to be resolved immediately.

Because Jesus is Lord of our lives, we are subject to Him and the behavioral guidelines of this mission effort, we agree to the following:

- We will be subject to the appointed leadership of the team.
- We will "walk in His steps" with Christ as our example in all things.
- We will reach out to the people of the Baja and serve them in the name of Christ.

SKILLS

The skills needed for any Baja mission trip are relatively modest, depending upon the specific purposes for which the mission trip is assembled. A team that is to provide limited medical and dental outreach as well as evangelistic and benevolence services may include:

- Doctors (*), nurses (*), dentists (*), other medical professionals (*) and support (helpers)
- Translators
- Teachers, elders and ministers
- Rough carpenters, electricians, plumbers and other construction skills
- Clothes, shoes, food, blankets and reading glasses distribution
- Home visitation
- Children's programs
- Women's programs
- Men's programs
- Mission team food preparation, serving and cleaning
- Photography
- Cleaning, painting and repairing
- Van or truck drivers (**)
- Any other jobs that are necessary at the time

**These are the only skilled professionals in the group. All other necessary skills can be learned on the job by any willing servant with the right heart.*

***Drivers of the vehicles need to be at least 25 years of age for insurance purposes and need to be selected before the trip. We ask that only drivers experienced in driving 15-passenger vans be selected to drive. Only these drivers can drive the vehicles during the trip. Do not leave anything of value in the vans. Always lock the door and park in public places.*

RESPONSIBILITIES

To assist with the organization of the work there will be team leaders for several of the responsibilities. Where possible leaders from both churches will serve together to ensure that both congregations learn as much as possible about the Baja Missions work and are prepared to serve in future leadership positions when necessary. It has been our experience that those who serve are called to serve in additional ways in later trips. It has also been our experience that being involved in and learning about several of the mission responsibilities helps establish strong teams that can “get the job done” when some of their key leaders may not be available for future trips. Finally, the most successful teams seem to have a strong representation of elders from their congregation. This is emphasized in the list below to identify at least one elder from each U.S. congregation that will be on the team and available to handle issues or problems as needed. This list will be updated and published for each team member prior to and during the mission trip. More details about the responsibilities are included in the Attachments.

The Baja is a “friendly” mission field in that there are seldom any serious problems or threats of serious problems, but there are always possibilities that this might change especially if a small group from the team gets involved in areas outside the normal routine or area of the mission effort. Team leaders are not required to know and understand Spanish or even the local culture, but they are asked to watch for the potential risks to the team and individual members and balance the team's actions with sound decisions that consider the need to have a safe mission experience as well as a productive one.

Finally, it is always best that the “team” concept is practiced at all levels and that a team of two or three is always the best approach to working in a mission field. If possible, avoid being isolated or alone in any effort, even one that may seem to be very easy and promising. Have a “buddy system” with other members of the team and allow yourself to be held accountable and to help hold others accountable for their actions.

COMMUNICATION

Communication in the mission field is the number one challenge. It requires an understanding on our part that we must listen and work to be sure that our message and example are communicated in the way that Christ intends us to communicate. Knowing another’s language and culture, even a little, is a strong step toward being received and accepted as someone who is “safe” to know. Understanding that inappropriate communication may be very damaging to the mission effort is critical. Sometimes simple actions such as laughter or gestures or made up words or ignoring someone who does not speak your language may significantly and permanently harm a successful mission effort.

We will provide Spanish/English New Testaments (with Psalms) for the people in Camalu. We will provide some extra copies for our team before the trip. If you prefer to purchase your own and get familiar with it before the trip we suggest you purchase a Reina Valera (1960) Spanish version that is the most frequently used in the Baja. We will also be providing Spanish translated Bible tracts and lessons along with song books. An investment on your part in an English/Spanish dictionary would be helpful along with some language practice and training before the trip begins. There is not a demand that you know Spanish to serve in the Baja Missions work, but it does help to open doors with the people and will help you build long-lasting relationships with those you meet there.

THE TRIP

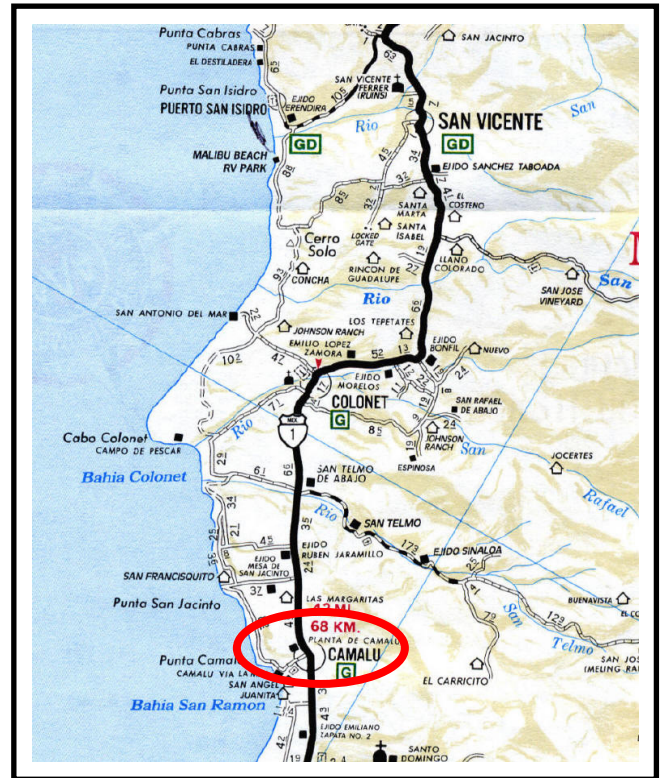
The most successful mission trips have been a combination of these works: revival meetings, Children’s classes and activities, health, medical, dental, homebuilding, additions, roofing, building outhouses, constructing fences, distributing food and personal items, distributing clothing and shoes, and additions or modifications to the church building. Our primary purpose is always to serve the people of the Baja and help build the churches spiritually and physically. The new work in Camalu is currently more focused on construction to continue to build the minister’s home and begin construction of the church building and other facilities there. We will have individual ministry teams focused on the following areas: Evangelism, Benevolence, Health, Children’s classes and activities, Construction, and Food. There will be other assignments, but these are the primary ministry areas for all team members to join. We ask that you select one area that is your primary area of interest and skill and spend most of the week in that ministry. If there is some flexibility in the team during the week it may be possible for you to work in other ministry areas also. Please check with the team leaders before you change ministry teams. We conduct our planning in ministry teams so your participation is needed during and between meetings before the trip to be sure we are prepared for the trip when the time comes to leave.

The thing to remember for all mission trips is that you are there to serve and to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Don’t let your enthusiasm for the physical task at hand overshadow your obligation to show a Jesus-like heart. Take time to get to know the people and the children. You will find that the Lord will place many opportunities for you to show a Christian servant’s heart. Take advantage of these opportunities. Somehow, the “schedule” gets accomplished if we only let God lead us. A few minutes with one of the adults or children will do more to show God’s love than any home you could build or wall you could paint.

Nearby churches that will help with the Camalu work are San Quintin, Vicente Guerrero, and San Vicente. San Quintin is an established church that has been meeting at the existing church property for several years. They

are fully supported by the Mayfair church in Huntsville, AL. Mayfair plans to conduct two weeks of on site ministry and construction work at San Quintin in July. Vicente Guerrero is supported by the Newburg, IN church. San Vicente is supported by the Woodland Trace church in Jasper, AL. We will visit those churches during the week we are in Camalu as well as stop at the other churches on our return trip from Camalu at the end of the week.

Camalu is a small community north of San Quintin. It is one of four new areas that Baja Missions identified as a locations for new churches. Land for the new church was purchased in 2004. We visited Camalu in February 2005 to plan to develop the property and help establish the Camalu church. In June of 2005 the minister's home, bathrooms, and a fence was constructed by the Central and Rockvale teams. In 2006 the church building was started, and the construction was finished in 2007. We want to continue the work in Camalu to evangelize and inform the community about the new church as well as continue the benevolence, health, Children's classes and activities, and other ministry efforts in Camalu. In 2009, a separate classroom building was constructed to house the ever expanding "needs for the NINOS" to have adequate learning space, and the neighboring lot was purchased to allow room for growth and expansion of the church facility.



TRAVEL

Many times, the biggest adventure stories come from the process of getting to and from the mission point! There is no reason to be afraid of the trip, but it is important to be prepared and aware of what's going on.

It is essential that you check in at the airport no later than two hours before your flight leaves. If your team leader gives you an earlier arrival time, you are obligated to be there at that time. Make sure you understand *where* the team is to meet. Have your passport and ticket in an easily assessable place. Come to the airport with your luggage well organized. You are allowed one carry on piece of luggage, and it must adhere to airline size requirements. Make sure you have everything you need for the duration of the flight in your carry-on bag. The luggage that you check in will not be seen again until you receive it at baggage claim at your arrival airport. *Note: It is a great idea to have at least a day's change of clothes in your carry on luggage if possible. Occasionally your checked luggage takes the "scenic route" and arrives a day or two later than your flight.*

You will be assigned a box or luggage container for mission supplies to check with your one piece of checked luggage. The maximum weight of each checked bag/box is 50 pounds. You will be advised of the contents and may check the contents if you prefer to do so before checking the container with the gate agent. This container is important to the success of the mission effort. Please help ensure that it is checked correctly and is received and loaded on to the bus after arrival in San Diego.

Once your team checks in at the ticket counter, listen carefully to your team leader. Meet at the flight gate no later than 45 minutes before the flight leaves. Security continues to be a major concern, so give yourself plenty of time to pass through the security check. **It is imperative that you do not joke about carrying weapons, bombs, or illegal substances. Airport security has a right to detain you beyond your flight if you do so.**

Depending on what is said, such comments can lead to your arrest. Airports are particularly serious about this matter. If for some reason you are detained, cooperate fully with the officials.

The most important guideline for behavior in airports is to follow the guidelines given by your team leader. **DO NOT BE LATE FOR ANY REASON FOR TEAM MEETING POINTS.**

Jet lag and general fatigue is a problem for any group participating in extended travel. A few suggestions from seasoned travelers can make the trip more enjoyable. First, one of the main reasons for fatigue on long flights is dehydration. It is suggested that you drink plenty of water or fruit juices and avoid caffeine and carbonated beverages during the flight. While it's fun to watch movies, it is a better use of time to get a good rest, especially as you fly toward your mission point. Taking an inflatable flight pillow, along with eye cover and ear plugs (available at drug and department stores) is a good idea.

The "buddy system" is strongly recommended. Whenever the team is in transit, you ought to be responsible for someone and someone should be responsible for you. Venturing out on your own is an open invitation to become stranded. It is not the team leader's responsibility to keep track of you. You are responsible for staying with the team!

While it is a relatively rare occurrence, thieves find airports and train stations to be "green pastures" for their trade. Carry your important documents and money in a secure place. A purse with a thin strap is easy picking. A wallet half exposed out of a rear pocket is even easier to steal. Thieves have been known to pick up a brief case while the owner uses the phone or stops to read the flight schedule monitors. *Keep close track of your personal belongings while in transit. This is of particular importance when traveling by public transportation. Keep essential documents and possessions in secure places (ex. inner/hidden pouches).*

ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS

- **Passport REQUIRED.**
- Photocopy of your passport picture page in a secure place other than where you keep your passport
- **Photocopy of your passport picture page provided with your application for border/checkpoint crossing information**
- Medical insurance information
- Emergency medical information (allergies, medications, etc.)
- If you choose to use traveler's checks (NOT WIDELY ACCEPTED), make sure and keep your check numbers and contact phone numbers for the company securing those checks in a secure place
- Airline tickets or in the case of e-tickets, a photo ID (obviously, a passport will work)

THE CALENDAR

Team meeting dates will be announced by the team leaders. Individual team leader meetings for specific responsibilities will also be planned by those team leaders. Preparation is vital to a successful mission trip. Announcements will be made regarding specific needs of clothes, shoes, hygiene items, Children's classes and activities supplies, teaching supplies, and other needs to pack and take with the team on the trip. The month of July will be a special BAJA SUPPLIES PREPARATION month. Please support and prepare for the trip by participating in these efforts.

THE COST

The main concern that most people have about being a part of one of our mission teams is how they will be able to afford it. The Central Mission Committee and the elders provide a budget to help reduce the overall cost for all Central team members. Depending on the length of stay in the Baja and cost of airfare, the mission trip will cost approximately \$1000.00. At first glance this seems like a great deal of money. However, this cost does cover everything including your airfare, housing, prepared food, transportation, and supplies and materials needed for various work projects. You will need additional money (generally \$100 or less) to purchase meals at cafes or restaurants along the way or for personal shopping. We do everything we can to keep the costs as low as possible, and **100%** of the money you raise goes toward your trip.

PAYMENT DUE DATES

The payments below only reflect the cost of the mission trip. You will be responsible for arranging and paying for your own airfare!

Date	Amount Due	Other Information
January 28, 2012	\$100.00	Non-refundable deposit due with Application, Assumption of Risk & Release, & copy of Passport.
March 10	\$100.00	2 nd Deposit.
May 12	\$200.00	3 rd Deposit.
July 14	\$100.00 or balance	Final Payment.

FUNDRAISING

Writing fundraising letters is one way many people acquire money for such mission efforts. But before you write your first letter, there are probably some concerns you have about asking people or churches for money. Such concern often times rest in what you think others will think of you. Some will see your trip entirely as a vacation. Others who receive your letters may not care at all. Some may even question your motives.

The following Guidelines have been put in place for your benefit and overall understanding of the Missions Fundraising System that has been proven successful for short-term mission efforts. Please read over the following very carefully **before** you begin sending your letters. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your team leaders. Sample letters are included in the Attachments.

Before you begin:

- ✓ There is a non-refundable \$100 deposit due at the time of application for all Baja Missions trips that must be turned in to your team leader along with the Application and Assumption of Risk and Release.
- ✓ *There can be no refund of money except in extreme cases (death in family, etc.). If you are unable to participate in the trip, the money you have raised will go to your replacement and/or the Baja Missions Fund. It is IMPERATIVE that this is made known when fundraising.*
- ✓ If you receive money that needs to be reimbursed (from a parent, family member, etc.) after other checks are turned in, *it is imperative* that it clearly states on the check **RETURNABLE DEPOSIT in addition to your name and trip name** so that no tax credit will be provided on that payment.

Make sure this is in your letters:

- ✓ All donations should be sent to the following address:

Northeast Church of Christ
Attention: Baja Mission Team Treasurer (Patrick Williams)
12020 Southwick Ln
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241
(513) 489-4659

- ✓ All checks should be made payable to the appropriate church and marked with your name and the mission trip location.
- ✓ All donations are tax deductible as a charitable donation

When you begin receiving money:

- ✓ All money **must** be turned in by **July 14th** for the July 21 through July 28 mission trip. Any money not raised must be covered personally at that point.
- ✓ Any money raised above and beyond what is individually needed will be added to the Baja Missions Fund for the local congregation.
- ✓ If you receive a cash donation and the donor would like a tax credit, please turn in the donor's name and address when turning in the money. Any money turned in without a name and address will be deposited as an anonymous donation, therefore receiving no tax credit.
- ✓ Records of donations made will be maintained by the team treasurer and given to the team leader via e-mail every *week* who will then distribute them to the team members.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Baja Missions, Incorporated information.
2. Service opportunities that are there for a Family Mission Trip. A scaled-down list is appropriate for the other mission trips.
3. Sample Fundraising Letters and Sample Thank You Letter.

BAJA MISSIONS, INCORPORATED

Baja Missions, Incorporated (Baja Missions) is a not-for-profit entity operating under the oversight of the elders of Mayfair Church of Christ in Huntsville, Alabama. The official name of the organization is Baja Missions, Incorporated. Our federal identification number is 20-0507229. The Baja Missions, Incorporated is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a U.S. Non-Profit Corporation under section 501(c)(3) in a letter dated 9 January 2004.

Donors may deduct contribution to Baja Missions, Incorporated such as gifts, transfers, bequests and legacies from appropriate federal taxes. The corporation was formed to oversee and fund the support of churches of Christ in Baja California, Mexico.

Our mailing address is Baja Missions, Inc. c/o Rex Watson, Mayfair Church of Christ, 1095 Carl T. Jones Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802.

Telephone (256) 882 3266 - Fax (256) 883 1523

E-mail address: Office@Mayfair.org

The officers and Board of Trustees of the Baja Missions, Incorporated are:

Rex Watson	Stan Stout
Lee Milam	Paul Kelly
Joe Hendrix	George Smith
Jerry Reynolds	

Baja Missions points of contact are:

Matt Moore	1-513-783-7340	mattbajamissions@gmail.com
Pilar Natera	01152 646 176 1607	ralip25@aol.com
Rex Watson	256 534 4515	rexwatson10@hotmail.com
Lee Milam	256 881 4651	lee@mayfair.org
Stan Stout	619 710 1641	stanstout@aol.com or cityofch@aol.com

Baja Missions is currently set up to do the following. The eldership of the supporting congregation provides the oversight.

1. Purchase property in the Baja
2. Build a church building
3. Find a preacher
4. Find support for the preacher from a congregation willing to come help
5. Find a 15-passenger van for the preacher to transport the people
6. Schedule visits and work projects to the participating congregations.

All visits are to be scheduled through the Baja Missions office in Mexico. The phone number is 1-619-793-4796 or email ralip@aol.com. All dates are tentative until the scheduling committee confirms them with the preacher at the location to be visited. Adequate adult supervision is required for all senior high school mission trips. All requests for dates should include the following information:

- a. Sponsoring congregation and person in charge (team leader)
- b. Dates of arrival and departure

- c. Home number and work number of team leader
- d. Email address
- e. Mailing address
- f. Approximate number on trip
- g. The names of church leaders coming on trip
- h. Our recommendation is to have a good balance of adults and youth (high school and older)
- i. What you are planning to do during your visit
- j. How many of your people speak Spanish

The types of mission trips supported by Baja Missions are Family Mission Trips in summer, a senior high school mission experience during spring/holiday breaks, a similar college mission trip during spring/holiday breaks, and a fall trip to meet with the Baja preachers and their wives for encouragement and faith building.

SUMMER FAMILY MISSION TRIP

A family mission trip occurs in the summer and is comprised of families and others willing to serve. These trips are where the bulk of the effort in the Baja is concentrated. These trips are normally 7 to 8 days including travel to and from San Diego, California with the last night in San Diego. These trips usually include a brief stop at the City of Children. The minimum age to participate in family mission trips is high school age. The Family Mission Trip has many aspects: evangelism, teaching, benevolence, medical and dental clinics, distribution of reading glasses, worship, and construction. Each of these areas is accomplished by team members of whom only the doctors, dentists, and nurses are skilled professionals.

FALL ENCOURAGEMENT AND FAITH BUILDING TRIP

This trip usually occurs in the early to mid fall and lasts four to five days, usually over a weekend. This trip is centered on outreach to the Baja ministers and wives for the purposes of encouragement and faith building as they progress along God's path for them. Participants include elders and ministers of the U.S. churches and those who can accomplish some specific tasks at the local Baja church. This is an abbreviated trip, located at the City of Children, with a limited scope of activities outside of the bilingual classes that are held. The classes are both joint for the ministers and wives and separate to allow focus on the particular challenges to each partner in the work of the Lord. The classes usually start on Thursday evening and last until noon on Friday. Then the team goes to one of the Baja churches to accomplish whatever tasks have been jointly decided upon for that trip. The team usually departs for the U.S. after services on Sunday or early Monday morning.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- 1) **EVANGELISM** (Home Visitation)
Translators, elders, ministers, others
- 2) **TEACHING** (Classes at church building, Children's classes and activities, men, women, youth, children)
Translators, teachers, puppeteers, "actors", story-tellers, song-leaders
Children's classes and activities teachers, translators, & helpers (Theme, supplies, games, videos)
- 3) **BENEVOLENCE** (Visiting homes with local church members to pray & give food)
Purchasers, preparers, distributors of food packages & new/used clothing items & special needs
Translators (Local church members will provide names and locations of recipients), helpers

- 4) **MEDICAL, DENTAL & EYEGLASSES** (Clinic for members & visitors)
Doctors, dentists, nurses, other medical professionals, registrars, helpers, translators
Eyeglass “fitters” (Reading glasses only; no prescriptions)
- 5) **WORSHIP & ASSEMBLY** (Team devotionals, special worship programs)
Devotional & worship leaders
Song leaders
Translators
- 6) **CONSTRUCTION** (Homes, outhouses, and church building)
Carpenters (rough)
Electricians
Plumbers
Other skills
Helpers
- 7) **FOOD PREPARATION** (Meals & snacks for team members)
Meal planning, purchasing, preparation, delivery & clean-up
Possible Sunday meal for local church (soup, sandwiches, hot dogs, snacks, drinks, etc.)
- 8) **TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS** (Driving, delivery, & safety)
Drivers (over age 25)
Loaders and unloaders
Supply box/suitcase control
- 9) **PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO** (Photographs / Videos / Video projection)
Photographer
Audio/Video Technician
- 10) **FINANCE & RECORDS** (Accounting and administrative support for team)
Record keeper/Report writer

SAMPLE FUNDRAISING LETTERS

Personalize your letters, to the individuals or group you're sending them too, or, send a basic form letter describing the trip **AND** a hand written letter to that individual or group.

Dear Uncle John,

It was great to see you during Christmas Break. As I mentioned to you then, Central Church of Christ has the opportunity to go on a mission trip to the Baja in Mexico from July 21 through July 28, 2012. Our mission is primarily evangelistic and benevolent in nature. There will be occasions where our team will be teaching in the church and in homes. We will also work in the neighborhoods door to door inviting people to an evangelistic worship on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evening. We will have the opportunity to teach the children and the youth on those nights. Distribution of Bibles and leaflets before and after worship will also be a part of our work. The churches we will be working with are the Camalu Church of Christ (located south of Ensenada, Mexico). We will be staying in a local hotel and visiting in homes while we are there.

Would you be able to help in financially supporting me in the cost of the trip? Our main expense is our plane ticket. My goal is to raise \$1000.00 plus \$100.00 for spending money in addition to the team cost. Any amount of money given will be greatly appreciated.

Should you be unable to contribute financially to this mission, your prayers would be a great help in weeks and months to come.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Hug Aunt Melba for me!

Your Sister in Christ,

Callie

Give each person to whom you send a letter the total price of the trip and explain that *anything* they can give to help would be appreciated.

Try to mail or hand out your letters A.S.A.P. so that churches and others can have plenty of time to meet in considering your request

February 15, 2012

Dear _____,

I am writing to ask a very simple favor of you. I am planning to travel to Baja, Mexico for the dates of July 21 through July 28, 2012. Once there, I will be spreading the word of God through medical missions. I will be carrying priceless medicines and medical equipment to be used in the clinic; assisting with short lessons on disease prevention, child safety and welfare; and teaching Bible stories to the children as they wait to be seen in the clinic. I will be passing out literature about the local church and inviting them to come to worship. Finally, I will be leading the nightly devotional with the teens of the area.

I have many reasons for wanting to go on this trip to the Baja. The most important one is to spread the word of God to all ends of the earth. There is no better way in my mind to spread the word than by medical missions. We will be healing them both spiritually and physically. Other reasons are: I will be bettering my skill at reaching lost souls, especially children. I have been to Baja, Mexico once before and I have wanted to return ever since.

The favor I ask of you is financial assistance to help me pay for the expenses of the trip. The total amount of the trip including airfare, food, lodging, and ground transportation is \$1000.00. I will need another \$100.00 for spending money along the way. Any amount of money given will be greatly appreciated. I want you to know that your money will be going to do great things in the lives of the people in Mexico. Should you be unable to contribute financially to this mission, your prayers would be a great help in weeks and months to come.

Please make checks payable to:
Northeast Church of Christ
Attention: Baja Mission Team Treasurer
12020 Southwick Ln
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241
(513) 489-4659

Please place my name and BAJA MISSIONS in the bottom left memo section of your check. The checks need to be in by _____ in order to meet the deadline.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Make sure all checks are made out to
Northeast Church of Christ
Memo: Baja Missions

Send letters to anyone you know that may be interested in what we're doing. For example: your home church, your grandparent's church, your individual family members, friends, personal friends, rich uncles, etc.

To Brother Jones and the Walnut Street Church of Christ,

As many of you know, I am a member of the Church of Christ in Cincinnati, OH and majoring in Biology and Chemistry at the University of Cincinnati in preparation for medical school. My goal is to become a medical missionary.

I have been blessed with an opportunity this coming July to work with a twenty-person mission team in Baja, Mexico for eight days. Lord willing, we will be working in the Camalu Church of Christ, located in the southern section of the Baja. This work is associated with Baja Missions, Incorporated, an organization devoted to establishing and serving churches of Christ in the Baja. Baja Missions is under the oversight of the Mayfair Church of Christ in Huntsville, AL.

Our services in the clinic include anything from providing vitamins for children to treating or bandaging existing wounds to helping a mother with her infant's constant ailments. This service is provided in Jesus' name, so that those who are cared for might turn to Him for spiritual healing. Aside from directly helping the people of the Baja and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, this mission will be invaluable training for my future as a missionary doctor.

We will also be inviting patients to return to the church for worship each day during the clinic and, where possible, to visit in homes to provide food and other needs.

The expenses of this mission will amount to about \$1000.00. About \$500 of this will be used for airfare. The rest will be used for housing and food at the hospital, travel between airport and the church at Camalu, and for necessary expenses during the trip. To date I have received \$XXX of this cost.

If you can help defray these costs in any way, your help would be immensely appreciated. If you would like to contribute to this mission, please make the check payable to the following:

Northeast Church of Christ
Attention: Baja Mission Team Treasurer
12020 Southwick Ln
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241
(513) 489-4659

Should you be unable to contribute financially to this mission, your prayers would be a great help in weeks and months to come.

If you would like to contact me, my phone number is XXX-XXXX. My e-mail address is xxxxx2@xxxx.org. My mailing address is

Thank you for your time.

In Christ,

Josh

Pray. Fundraising is not a fiscal matter but a spiritual one.

SAMPLE THANK YOU LETTER

Dear _____,

I want to thank you very much for your financial assistance for my Baja, Mexico mission trip. The word and spirit of God was definitely spread on this trip. God's spirit was shown everyday in the clinic where we helped over X00 people. We held a four-day clinic in Camalu, while other members of the team helped build the roof for the church and repaired several houses. Also, God's word spread everyday by the Children's classes and activities's with the kids.

As you can see, God truly was shown to the people of the Baja. A report by the trip leader is also in this letter. The report tells of the many ways we affected the people of the Baja on this trip. Please read the report, it will help you to see how much your money really did help others.

Now, I will tell you how the trip affected me personally. I believe I was helped more by the people of the Baja than I helped them. The people helped me in many ways. The list below describes just a few of those ways.

- I was able to see that God's love can be shown in many ways.
- I learned the joy of a smile and just how much communication can be done through facial expressions.
- I made many friends in both adults and children, even in places I didn't expect. For example, I listened to a girl read a pamphlet. For the rest of the day that girl never left my side.
- I gained a greater appreciation for God's beauty, for people with bigger hearts than mine, and for all the things I have here at home.
- I found an absolute need and want to learn Spanish.

Finally, my heart was pricked for the people of the Baja. Let me explain. I am currently studying youth ministry in school. While in the Baja, I asked the minister if he even knew what youth ministry was. He said he did and would love to have one there at his church. So to make a long story short, I am now pursuing the possibility of being a youth minister in the Baja. Your prayers for my future and me would be greatly appreciated.

Once again, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your gracious contribution.

Sincerely,

Josh


BAJA MISSIONS
 CHAPULTEPEC • MANEADERO • SAN QUINTIN • SAN VINCENTE • EL ZORRILLO
 VICENTE GUERRERO • COLONIA 89 • CAMALU • COLONET

2012 Family Mission Trip
Camalu, Baja California, Mexico

Travel Information, Meeting Schedule, & Trip Plan

Application Due Date & Payment Schedule:

Date	Amount Due	Other Information
January 28, 2012	\$100.00	Non-refundable deposit due with Application, Assumption of Risk & Release, & copy of Passport. You will be responsible for your own air fare arrangements and cost. <u>THESE PAYMENTS WILL NOT COVER YOUR AIR FARE!</u>
March 10	\$100.00	2 nd Deposit.
May 12	\$200.00	3 rd Deposit
July 14	\$100.00 or Balance	Final Payment

Contact Information:

Clint and Scheryl Moore: Home 513-738-4083; Cell 513-477-7282; Email: camoore@fuse.net
 Jason and Laura Couch: Cell 513-892-0604; Email: jasonlauracouch@yahoo.com
 Matt Moore (Ensenada): Baja Missions 1-513-783-7340 (Toll Free from USA); Email: mattbajamissions@gmail.com
 City of Children/ Baja Missions:
 Email: stanstout@aol.com or cityofch@aol.com
 U.S. Telephone 1-619-710-1641
 U.S. Fax 1-619-710-1642
 U.S. Cell 1-619-852-8988
 City of Children 1-619-446-6800

Flight Information:

You will be responsible for your own air fare arrangements and payment.

You will need to make sure that you arrive in San Diego, CA in time to meet-up with the group.

July 21, 2012	by 1:00 p.m.	Arrival at San Diego airport
July 28, 2012	starting at 6:00 a.m.	Airport shuttle from hotel, depending on departure time of your flight

Travel Instructions:

- **Bring your passport and driver's license (birth certificate if no drivers' license).**
- Check your personal suitcase and one suitcase or box assigned to you (50 pounds each maximum). You are responsible for making sure the assigned "mission" suitcase or box arrives in San Diego and is loaded on the bus.
- One carry-on bag is allowed. NO sharp objects or other un-allowed items (check with airline) in your carry-on bag.
- Arrive at the gate 45 minutes before flight time and check in with the team.
- Stay with the team for all meeting points and times. Use the "buddy system" so that someone knows where you are.
- Suggestions for packing are: Jeans/T-shirts/work clothes, casual church clothes, light jacket, cap, sun-screen, sun glasses, toiletries, personal medicine, anti-bacterial supplies, Bible, notebook, camera, personal hand tools, favors, extra spending money for benevolence, purchased meals, & souvenirs.
- **IF YOU ARE LATE AND MISS THE FLIGHT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN TRANSPORTATION, AT YOUR COST. THE TEAM CANNOT WAIT FOR YOU!!!**

Pre-Trip, Team Meeting Schedule

Saturday, January 28 – Team Meeting (*All Applications and \$100.00 Deposit Due by January 28th*)

- 1) Pray for the people in the Baja; the churches, ministers, members, families; the Camalu church; & our trip
- 2) Handout & discuss Baja Mission Handbook & Travel Schedule
- 3) Discuss Applications & Passports
- 4) Deposit payment status & team count/names
- 5) Ministry group assignment / meetings:
 - a) Food preparation – mission team breakfast and lunch
 - b) Benevolence
 - c) Construction
 - d) Health Clinic
 - e) Children's classes and activities
 - f) Evangelism

Saturday, March 10 – Team Meeting (*\$100.00 payment Due by March 10th*)

- 1) Pray for the people in the Baja; the churches, ministers, members, families; the Camalu church; & our trip
- 2) Handout & discuss Mission Plan & Travel Information
- 3) Discuss Applications & Passports
- 4) Deposit payment status & team count/names
- 5) Packing & luggage plan
- 6) Ministry group meetings:
 - a) Food preparation– mission team breakfast and lunch
 - b) Benevolence
 - c) Construction
 - d) Health Clinic
 - e) Children's classes and activities
 - f) Evangelism

Saturday, May 12 – Team Meeting (*\$200.00 payment Due by May 12th*)

- 1) Pray for the people in the Baja; the churches, ministers, members, families; the Camalu church; & our trip
- 2) Payment status & team count/names
- 3) Discuss & decide on requests from the congregation – clothes, health/medical supplies, Children's classes and activities supplies, empty suitcases, and special contribution
- 4) Ministry group meetings:
 - a) Food preparation – mission team breakfast and lunch
 - b) Benevolence
 - c) Construction
 - d) Health Clinic
 - a) Children's classes and activities
 - b) Evangelism

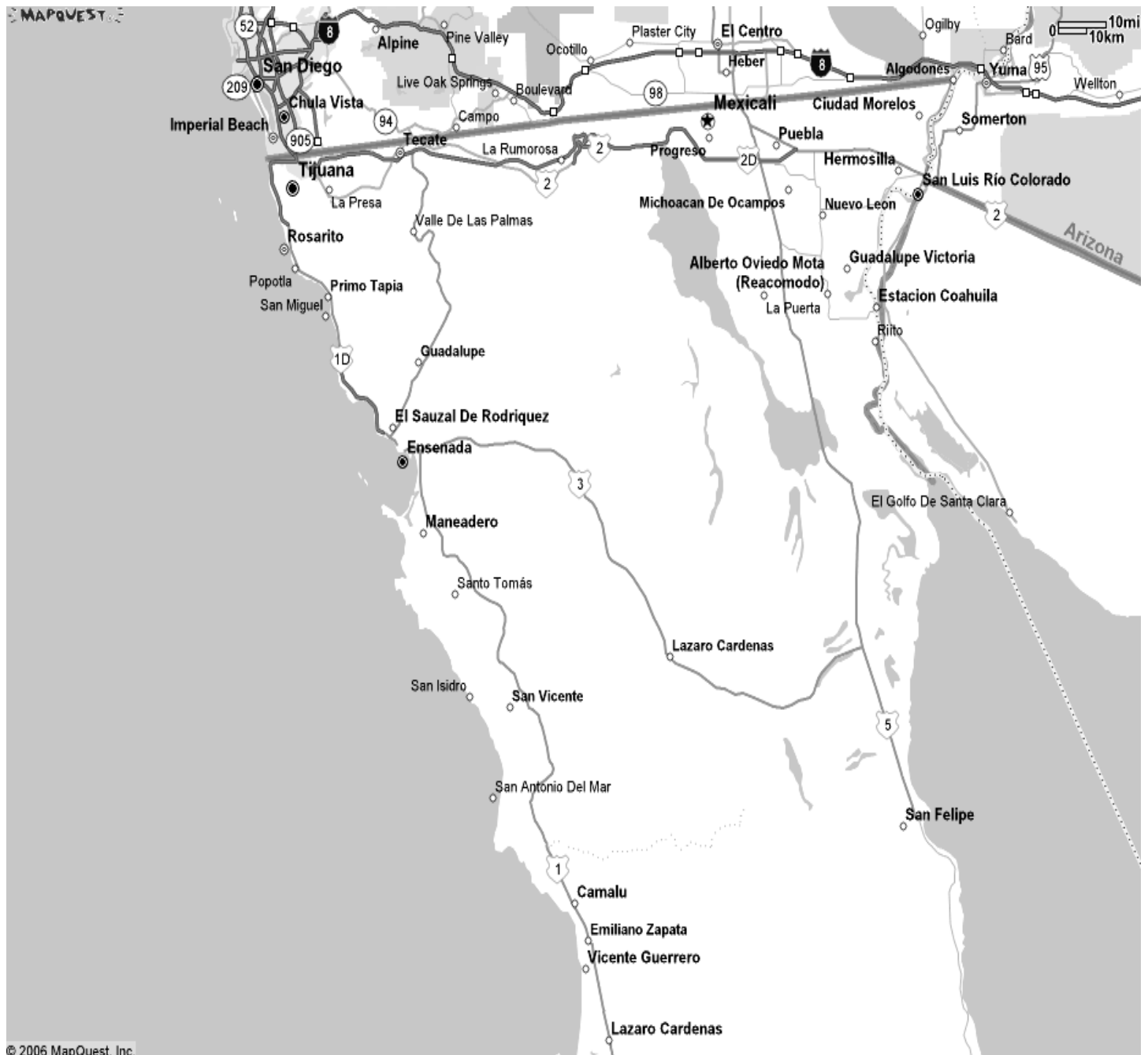
Saturday, July 14 –Team Meeting - (Final \$100.00 or balance payment Due by June 14th)

- 1) Pray for the people in the Baja; the churches, ministers, members, families; the new Camalu church; & our trip
- 2) Status of requests from the congregation – clothes, health/medical supplies, Children’s classes and activities supplies, empty suitcases, and special contribution
- 3) Hand out T-shirts
- 4) Group meetings:
 - a) Food preparation – mission team breakfast and lunch
 - b) Benevolence
 - c) Construction
 - d) Health Clinic
 - e) Children’s classes and activities
 - f) Evangelism

Note: Additional meetings to be arranged as needed up until the July 21st departure

Baja Missions Churches, Ministers & Wives

- Colonia 89 Reyes and Chanita Medina
- Chapultepec Arturo & Irma Cervantes
- Maneadero Alfredo & Carmen Chavero
- El Zorrillo Xavier and Yolanda Franco
- Erendira Julio & Esmeralada Velez
- San Quintin Agripino & Gloria Martinez
- San Vicente Antonio & Nelly Gonzalez
- Vicente Guerrero Gerardo & Betty Figueroa
- Camalu Juan Jose and Flor Medina
- Colonet Antonio and Dulce Dueñas



Camalu Mission Trip 2010 Daily Schedule: *Last summer's itinerary*

Saturday – Travel

No later than

12 noon – 1:00 p.m. Arrive in San Diego airport
2:00 p.m. Depart via bus to the Baja
4:00 p.m. Arrive at City of Children and transfer to vans
4:30 p.m. Depart City of Children
7:30 p.m. Arrive in Camalu – Dinner at the Church
8:30 p.m. Depart for Pirates Cove Hotel

Sunday – Worship at Camalu

8:00 a.m. Depart for church
8:15 a.m. Breakfast at church
9:00 a.m. Set up for church
10:00 a.m. Worship with our brothers and sisters
12:00 p.m. Lunch at church
2:00 p.m. Setup at church for weekday ministries
4:00 p.m. Return to Hotel
5:00 p.m. Dinner at Hotel
6:30 p.m. Vans depart for church
7:00 p.m. Adult/Children's classes and activities and worship at Camalu
9:00 p.m. Team devotional at hotel

Monday – Mission Day 1

8:00 a.m. Vans depart to Camalu church
8:15 a.m. Breakfast at church
8:45 a.m. Morning devotional
9:00 a.m. Prepare for & begin ministry efforts
12:00 noon Lunch at church
3:30 p.m. Work stops to clean & prepare site for worship
4:00 p.m. Preparations for dinner
4:30 p.m. Dinner at church
5:30 p.m. Vans depart for hotel
6:45 p.m. Vans depart for church
7:00 p.m. Adult/Children's classes and activities and worship at Camalu
9:00 p.m. Team devotional at hotel

Tuesday – Mission Day 2

8:00 a.m. Vans depart to Camalu church
8:15 a.m. Breakfast at church
8:45 a.m. Morning devotional
9:00 a.m. Prepare for & begin ministry efforts
12:00 noon Lunch at church
3:30 p.m. Work stops to clean & prepare site for worship
4:00 p.m. Preparations for dinner
4:30 p.m. Dinner at church
5:30 p.m. Vans depart for hotel
6:45 p.m. Vans depart for church
7:00 p.m. Adult/Children's classes and activities and worship at Camalu
9:00 p.m. Team devotional at hotel

Wednesday – Mission Day 3

8:00 a.m. Vans depart to Camalu church
8:15 a.m. Breakfast at church
8:45 a.m. Morning devotional
9:00 a.m. Prepare for & begin ministry efforts
12:00 noon Lunch at church
4:00 p.m. Vans depart for hotel
5:30 p.m. Dinner at the hotel
6:45 p.m. Vans depart for church
7:00 p.m. Adult/Children's classes and activities and worship at Camalu
9:00 p.m. Team devotional at hotel

Thursday – Mission Day 4

8:00 a.m. Vans depart to Camalu church
8:15 a.m. Breakfast at church
8:45 a.m. Morning devotional
9:00 a.m. Prepare for & begin ministry efforts
12:00 noon Lunch at church
3:30 p.m. Work stops to clean & prepare site for worship
4:00 p.m. Preparations for dinner
4:30 p.m. Dinner at church – fish taco celebration!
5:30 p.m. Vans depart for hotel
6:45 p.m. Vans depart for church
7:00 p.m. Adult/Children's classes and activities and worship at Camalu
9:00 p.m. Team devotional at hotel

Friday – Travel

7:00 a.m. Depart hotel
7:15 a.m. Breakfast at church
7:30 a.m. Wash and clean-up vans at church
8:00 a.m. Depart to Ensenada
12:00 p.m. Lunch and shopping on your own in Ensenada
2:00 p.m. Vans return to City of Children
2:30 p.m. Bus leaves City of Children for San Diego
6:00 p.m. Arrive at Hampton Inn San Diego
6:30 p.m. Dinner on your own in San Diego
10:00 p.m. All team members at Hampton Inn

Saturday – Travel

6:30 a.m. Begin breakfast at Hampton Inn & hotel check-out
7:00 a.m. Begin hotel shuttles to San Diego Airport depending on flight departure times (Register at front desk)