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## WHY MEXICO?

At first, we were not thinking Mexico. I (Ben) was thinking 1000s of miles away from Mexico. Yet, we were taken on a journey finally ending up in Monterrey. Here is how God took us there.

First stop, some of my (Ben) personal thoughts before the Lord.

1. I greatly desired to see the trip be about ministry. I wanted to emphasis ministry; de-emphasis tourism.
2. I also wanted to see **a lot** of students catch a fire for global missions.
3. I wanted to work with people. We could do some construction, but I very much desired – for our team – interaction with people from another global culture.

Second stop, the Parents' Team. They added ...

1. Make the trip accessible to more families.
2. Make the trip in a location that is feels safe for the entire group, because it is hard to send younger teenagers to very distant countries.
3. Cut some of the financials so that more families are willing to entire into the process.

I took these thoughts to the WBC staff. They affirmed and added a couple.

1. They said to be kind to the congregation by making the trip less financially strapping on them (very important because we desire to take more students).
2. They affirmed an idea to stay somewhat local for this year through Mexico.

The last stop was the Thrive youth leaders. We together made the decision that best application of all the above (plus a few extras). It was Monterrey. Both Tim Taylor and Erika Tello have spent time with Time Ministries and they both affirmed the organization as a God centered, wonderful place through which to do ministry.

We go because we think that this is the perfect place for our group to take Jesus globally. This will – Lord willing – be an amazing location for God to move through us to touch His world.

# MONTERREY, MEXICO

## *Culture*

Monterrey is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in Mexico. It is a dichotomized city between the rich and the poor. Overall, it is a very wealthy city and has some very ostentations demonstrations of wealth. There is, however, a very large amount of poor in the city. It is the home to what many consider the best technological school, and so the city draws some very wealthy and talented individuals. Due to the cities large amount of steel working, it has been called the “Pittsburgh of Mexico”.

The city draws many people due to its wealth and exciting down town. It also draws hikers and mountain climbers with its beautiful mountain range.

Soccer is an important part of Monterrey culture and the weekly Saturday games are sources of festivity and party.

There are many historical and natural landmarks in the city of Monterrey demarcated in its 500 or so year history. The most famous is its outlying mountain, Cerro de la Silla, the “Saddle Mountain”. Among this and its neighboring mountains there are many trails, canyons, caves and hiking trails.



## *Safety*

In 2005, Monterrey was voted the safest Latino city! In 2006, it was high in the running. For Mexico, the city has a tremendous reputation for safety. There are two emergency phone numbers that can be called at anytime. There also are state of the art hospitals in the city that are well respected for treating serious health difficulties.

There are two Public safety systems that oversee the respectable protection of Monterrey. They operate on both the city and state level, in both the downtown and outerlying regions between the two of their departments.

## *Spirituality*

This is from the International Religious Freedom Report concerning all of Mexico.

According to the Government's 2000 census, approximately 88 percent of respondents identified themselves as at least nominally Roman Catholic. There were an estimated 11,000 Catholic churches and 14,000 ordained Catholic priests and nuns. An additional estimated 90,000 laypersons worked in the Catholic Church system. Other religious groups for which the 2000 census provided estimates included evangelicals (including Pentecostals, neopentecostals, and Pentecostal Roots, which in turn included Live God Church, Truth Column and Support, and the World's Light), with 1.71 percent of the population; other Protestant evangelical groups, 2.79 percent;

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2006/71467.htm>

Catholicism is incredibly and intricately connected to Mexican culture. They have the largest amount of Catholics in the world with the exception of Brazil.

There are other religious groups in the country as well, but it appears that there is very little atheism or agnosticism. It is, by and large, a very “religious” country. The amount of Gospel believing Evangelicals, however, is very low.

Monterrey has about 4 million people. However, half of them do not go to church. When asked why they were not in church, one study found as many as 75% saying, “It’s just boring”.

## OUR ROLE IN MONTERREY

We will be involved in intensive ministry 6 of the 9 days while being in Monterrey. Two of the days are travel. The first Sunday will be spent in preparation and attending church. Our schedule will be broken into three segments (morning, afternoon, night).

### *Morning*

We will be working on construction projects assigned to us by Time Ministries. This may be conducted by ourselves or it may be with other churches. It will be manual labor most likely benefiting a local ministry or family in need. The exact nature of our project will depend on the needs as determined by Time Ministries at the time. Time Ministries will be providing the equipment and transportation for the morning projects.

### *Afternoon*

After returning from construction and eating lunch, we will have a semi-flexible afternoon. The afternoon's purpose will have three objectives. First, we will use this time to prepare for the evening ministry that we will be conducting. Second, this time will be used for team building, fellowship, prayer, etc. Third, this will be a time of relaxing and/or traveling to local waterfalls, etc.

### *Evening*

The evening will be a self-created and self-conducted ministry to the local community. We will be in the park doing evangelism. We have many options about how to go about this, and we will be choosing this as we go along in the process with our Missions Leadership Team.

We will be doing this along with the local church. Even though our group will conduct the nuts and bolts of the activity, it will be done with direct connection with local ministries in order that the work that begins in the park, will carry into the church.

## TIME MINISTRIES

### *Doctrine*

I. We believe the Bible to be the verbally inspired, only infallible, authoritative Word of God, inerrant in its original writings.

II. We believe that there is only one God, Creator of heaven and earth, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

III. We believe in the absolute deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through the shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the Father, and in His personal and imminent return in power and glory.

IV. We believe that man, created by a direct act of God and in His image, fell into a sinful state. All men thus have a sinful nature and absolutely need regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation from a lost state to eternal life with God. This salvation is wholly of grace, solely through personal faith in the work of Christ on the cross, faith in Him alone.

V. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

VI. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of everlasting punishment.

VII. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as they are in His Church.

### *Why Time Exists*

We seek to glorify God through changing lives by leading short-term groups to the mission field to serve local churches in need of additional resources and personnel. This will benefit sending organizations by deepening their vision of missions and maturing their people spiritually. This will benefit the receiving field by helping churches to fulfill their vision through evangelism, construction, and discipleship.

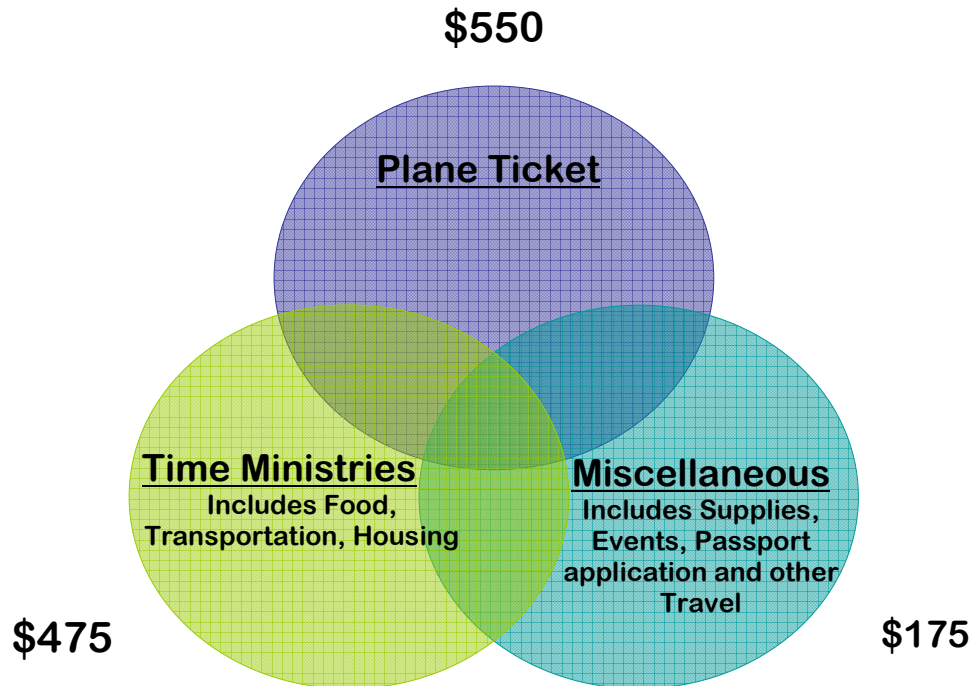
### *History of Time*

TIME Ministries originated in 1968 when a group of young people from the US spent a week during their Christmas vacation in the village of Pueblo Nuevo, just outside of Monterrey in Mexico. At that point, the ministry was called Teenage Institute of Missionary Evangelism. However, because so many of the participants in subsequent years were adults the name was changed to The Institute of Missionary Evangelism and is now known simply as TIME Ministries. After much growth, the base was moved into the urban environment of the intercity of Monterrey during the 80's. In 1991 a site was opened in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic. From 1995 to 2001 we took groups to the western Mexico city of Heramosco. In 2005 we started a base in Alemaco, Mexico that moved in 2007 into the near by town of Queretaro. In 2006 we started a site in the largely hispanic area of east Dallas, TX.

# FINANCIALS

## *Cost*

The entire trip cost will be \$1100. The following is a break down in the cost.



## *Fund Raising*

We have already started fund raising, and much of this expense will be reduced. Praise the Lord for His generous Church!

We will be conducting about 5 more fund raisers from now until departure. We also will be working with students on drafting a letter that will be sent in order to raise support.

## *Final note:*

If God wants you to go, God will pay. I don't know how He will pay or through whose bank account, but don't let finances convince you to go or to not go. He will provide if He wants you there.

So, pray for God's direction more than just His wallet. He takes care of His own if we are following Him!

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Will the Students need spending Money?*

Yes ... or no. Hmm, not really. The students will not need spending money, but many will want to have some in order to get souvenirs or cultural items. They will not be responsible for paying for any meals or transportation, etc.

*Will the group be traveling by itself?*

Basically, all of our travel will be with Time Ministries staff. Our afternoon trips will be with them. Also, they will be transporting us from the airport on Saturday and to the airport on the next Sunday.

It will be very rare to be traveling with just our group.

*What are the facilities like where the students stay?*

We are staying at Time Ministries compound. They have bathrooms, showers and separate facilities for guys and girls to sleep. This is also where we will be eating our meals during the day.

*What will the outreach in the evening be?*

We don't know. We purposefully are waiting until we get a missions team together (of both leaders and students) before we attempt to tackle that decision. We have talked about an evening VBS, a soccer camp, a carnival and other ideas.

*How large of a group will we be taking?*

My (Ben) goal is to take a group of 18-25. We want to spread the vision of global missions.

*What leaders will be attending?*

We have not nailed down our adult support. Although we have a tremendous amount of interest so far both on the student and leader level. Praise God!

## APPLICATION AND FORMS

- *Thrive Missions Application*
- *Medical Release Form*
- *Mexico Travel Consent Form*
- *U.S. Passport Application*

**THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS ARE**  
**LOCATED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE,**  
**NOT ON THE ONLINE VERSION.**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Missions Leadership Team (students and leaders) meeting ..... March 23

Applications Due ..... March 30

Missions Leadership Team (students and leaders) meeting ..... April 6

FIRST TRAINING ..... April 27

SECOND TRAINING ..... May 11

Future training dates to be announced.

Leave for Monterrey ..... July 12

Return from Monterrey ..... July 20

