



INFORMATION PACKET WORD OF WELCOME

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Borderland Missions. We also want to welcome you to what we believe is one of the greatest opportunities of your life. Jesus told us to "go into the all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." That is exactly what Borderland Missions stands ready to help you do.

At Borderland Missions you will find a dedicated staff with a focus on winning the lost to Christ. We are conveniently headquartered in San Benito, Texas which is just six miles from the border with Mexico. Our main focus is along the US/Mexican border.

It is our hope that this packet will have you catch the vision the Lord has given us for Borderland Missions. It is our desire for you to join us in our efforts to reach a lost and dying world. Jesus said John 9:4 "I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work." We believe that day is closer than any of us can imagine.

Please except our personal invitation to come and be a part of what the Lord is doing through Borderland Missions. We believe that your involvement could very well prove to be a life changing experience!

Because He Lives,

*Loren Ward
Missions Director*

*Greg Rangel
Senior Pastor*





WORD OF ADVICE

Please make sure that all members of your team get a copy of this Information Packet as that many questions will be answered and they will be better prepared upon arrival.

PURPOSE

The purpose of Borderland Missions is to share the love of Jesus Christ by coordinating missions activities along the Borderland of South Texas and throughout Latin America. We desire to be a conduit for those to whom God has called to get personally involved with missions. We strive to maintain an atmosphere where you can come and learn more about the Lord, yourself and have an opportunity to share JESUS with a lost and dying person in a place you have never been and with those you have never met.



SHORT TERM MISSIONARY TRIPS

The most common response we hear from those who have chosen to come and be involved in the work is "We have never been closer to the Lord, prayed so much, worked so hard, been so tired, or been so blessed." "Our lives will never be the same!" We hope you will take time to pray about coming as an individual or as part of a group to be a part of all the exciting things that the Lord is doing here at Borderland Missions.

Our missions statement is that "Borderland Missions exists to share the love of Jesus Christ by coordinating missions activities along the Border of South Texas." We operate on the conviction that God has called us (His Church) to reach out and share the love of Jesus with the world. Our teams, whether they are medical, construction, or a combination of both, will always be accompanied by evangelism. More than food, and clothing, this world needs Jesus.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Nothing will stand in the way of our mission. Through faith and prayer we will continue. Come prayed up and prepared to serve in any conditions.

THE PEOPLE

You will find the people of Latin America are very friendly, kind and humble. They are hungry for the truth and hope that you will bring to them. They are in need of hope for their lives. You will see first hand people that are without hope in a lost world. We know that the Lord is going to use YOU if you will come prayed up, prepared and willing to be used by Him.

WHAT TO EXPECT

You will be staying at our facility here in San Benito. We strive to make it as comfortable as possible. We have enough dorm space to comfortably accommodate 44 people. Each dorm has private access to restrooms and showers. We also have a cafeteria, kitchen, stage area, and a sitting area. The Lord has allowed us to build facilities that are flexible and clean.

Your meals will be served to you daily by our staff. You will be served three meals per day. These meals will be nutritious and filling. Normally, breakfast and dinner are served at the Borderland home base, and lunch is taken to the field daily.

A staff pastor of Borderland Missions will hold devotions for your group every morning after breakfast.

You will be expected to clean up after yourself. Your group will be responsible to keep your living quarters and bathrooms clean during your stay.

Our staff will maintain an attitude of flexibility at all times and we ask you to do the same. Sometimes, God simply does not work within our schedule all of the time.



OUR MOTTO

*“Blessed are the flexible for they shall bend and will not break”
-Chuck 1:1*

SAMPLE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Saturday: Incoming groups are encouraged to arrive in the afternoon as that the outgoing team will be leaving in the morning. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm. Depending upon your arrival time, the evening will be spent relaxing.

Sunday: Breakfast will be served at 9:00am. The group will attend the 11:00am worship service here at Borderland Missions. Lunch will be served immediately following the worship service. After lunch the group will go look at their ministry site and begin inviting the community to be a part of the work. The group will return for dinner at 6:00pm.

Monday-Thursday: Breakfast will be served at 7:00am. Devotions and prayer will be at 8:00am. Vans will leave for the ministry site at 8:30am. Lunch will be served at 12:00pm either here at the church or at the ministry site. The vans will head back to Borderland Missions between 4:00 & 4:30pm. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm.

Friday: Breakfast will be served at 7:00am. Devotions and prayer will be at 8:00am. Vans will leave to Mexico at 9:00am. Lunch will be at either location. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm. The option of going to the beach will be open. The decision will be made by the group leader and Missions Director.

Saturday: Load'em up and move'em out.

VBS MATERIALS

All groups are encouraged to prepare for Vacation Bible School.

Here is a list that we have worked up after working with many VBS teams in Mexico. It is only a recommendation.

Please buy nametag stickers for the children, buy at least 4 rolls of 100. Permanent markers are good for writing names.

As any VBS you never know how many children and adults will show up, so prepare for at least 200. We have had them run up to 300 plus!

Please remember to make about 300 small bags (3"x4") full of candy for the children; these will be given at the end of each day of VBS. Then make 100 (5x4x11) bags full of candy with at least one toy (neutral gender) this bag will be given the last day of VBS. If your congregation is getting involved ask them to donate school supply ex: coloring books, crayons, pencils, Markers, chalk, glue, notebooks, sharpeners etc. These item will be given per family the last day as we give the clothing away. Please keep your crafts as simple as possible as the children will be seating most of the time on the floor. Coloring,



gluing, Bead bracelets, and puzzles are a good idea. You should have at least one craft per day. The games should also be simple.

Any material left over can be donated to the Church in Mexico or Borderland Missions for future teams.

The lesson can be of your choosing, however for this year we highly recommend **"Retratos de Familia – Family Portraits"** by Concordia Publishing House. This is a bilingual curriculum and can be ordered from Concordia. Their telephone number is 1-800-325-3040 and the website is <http://www.cph.org>.

If you choose to go with another curriculum, you must know your material, have it prepared, and provide your own teacher. Our summer missionaries and translators will only be able to assist you in translation as that they do not know the curriculum that you have chosen.

Study the material and prepare a small skit of the lesson for each day, while it is being read by the teacher. You can use puppets, if you like. If your stay is during the summer, our summer missionaries will assist in this area.

We buy most of our items that we use for VBS at Oriental Trading company, Inc. You may reach them at (800)-526-9300 or www.orientaltrading.com.

Example of Items that have been used for VBS

Bags...ws-26/549(large)
Bags...ws-36/218(small)
Rings...xz-39-814
Harmonicas...xz-39-88
Pencils.....xz-5-591
Erasers.....xz-39-1168
Suckers.....xz-k1
Sharpeners...xz-39-124
Crayons.....xz-12-6540
Cup & ball game...xz-39-61
Candy...xz-k291

Beach balls, yo-yos, bean bag animals, hand puppets, paddle ball games, bubbles, sport bottles, gliders, cups, screens, wallets, amps, necklaces etc.

If you have a better place to purchase these items, please do so, and if possible let us know, as we try to help our groups with sources.

RICE AND BEANS DISTRIBUTION

On at least two days of the week the team will be distributing rice and beans in a community in Mexico. Your group will be responsible for bringing these items with you or purchasing them upon your arrival. Plan on a minimum of about \$50.00 per day for the beans and rice.



The beans and rice will be separated into 1/4 gallon bags for easier distribution. Each person in your group should also bring a back pack to carry these items. A great idea is to have your Vacation Bible School collect these items!

FACILITIES IN SAN BENITO

The Lord has blessed Borderland Missions with a large facility. Get your whole church involved! We have enough space to house up to 44 short-term missionaries at a time. Borderland Missions is located in the Rio Grande Valley, it is as far south as you can go before leaving the United States. The Rio Grande Valley encompasses both sides of the United States and the Mexican Border. It is home to 2 ½ million people. It is known for having two of the poorest counties in the United States. Low wages high unemployment and below average median income is a way of life. It is also known for a rapidly growing population along the Mexican side. We are just 5 hours southeast of San Antonio and 6 hours southwest of Houston.

PACKING TIPS

PACK LIGHT!

Tightly secure any items that may come open while traveling.
Take luggage you don't mind having damaged.
Take items you won't mind leaving behind if you see a need.
Leave room for souvenirs.
Pack enough film and batteries. These are costly in Mexico.
A self-service laundry is located about a block from the church.

TRIP COST

We strive to keep costs for your trip to the lowest possible price. People who have supported Borderland Missions in the past have paid for all the facilities that you will be using while you are with us. Borderland Missions is a debt free ministry and this allows us to charge a daily cost far less than similar trip cost. Your trip will be all-inclusive after your arrival in San Benito. We will house, feed, transport and serve with you during your stay with us. A normal stay is \$50.00 per person per day.

WHAT TO BRING

Bible, pen, notepad, pillows, toiletries (soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, hairbrush, etc.), towels/wash cloth, sleeping bag/or sheets & blankets for a twin size bed, sunscreen, insect repellent, flashlight, backpack, rubber boots in case of rain, extra money for snacks and souvenirs, enough clothing to last the entire stay as the laundry time will be limited.

SHORTS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN MEXICO

The people we will be ministering to in Mexico may or may not wear shorts. Different churches have different standards of dress. We would rather go in conservatively than risk offending. The Apostle said in Romans 14:14-15, *"I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest*



thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.”

However, shorts are allowed at the ministry in San Benito and on the last day of shopping in Progresso or at the beach. All shorts will be no shorter than the tip of the fingers.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Vaccinations are not required to enter Mexico. However, it is suggested that your Tetanus vaccination be recent (within the last 5 years).

TRAVELING DOCUMENTS

Apart from the regular state and government identifications that are issued, everyone coming for a mission trip **MUST** possess a current U.S. Passport or Travel Card. The person not having a passport or a Travel Card will not be allowed to go into Mexico. No exceptions.

CONDUCT GUIDELINES FOR SHORT TERM MISSIONARIES

1. It is our desire that Godly character be displayed at all times.
2. We ask that you refrain from outbursts of anger or the use of any profanity.
3. Firearms, knives, or weapons of any nature are prohibited.

