



# Mexico Team 2019

## Info & Application Packet

**WHO:** Since 1996 our youth group has taken 15 trips to Mexico and built 41 houses for Mexican families living in material poverty. This summer we plan to take 40+ of our high school youth group members, parents, sponsors and other church attenders. High Schoolers and their parents have “first dibs” on the spots, but starting in February 2019 the trip will be opened up to all NCBC college students and other attenders from our church. Registration closes April 1, 2019, or when all spots are filled, after which a waiting list will be established. The wall display in the High School room shows how many spots remain. No construction skills are required— just a willingness to work hard without complaining and to follow directions.

**WHEN:** Sunday morning, June 9 until Sunday evening, June 16. We will take two vehicles: the newer church bus and the Ford Excursion, which will also pull our large trailer.

**WHERE:** We’ll be serving in Acuña, Mexico, which is on the border of Del Rio, Texas. Material poverty is widespread in Acuña, a city of 181,000 people. *Casas Por Cristo* (Houses for Christ) is the organization with whom we’ll serve. This will be our 16th time working with *Casas* and each time has been a very positive, life-changing experience.

**WHY:** To show God’s love by building two homes for people in poverty. To learn that the world is bigger and more diverse than we ever imagined. To experience teamwork and the completion of a task. To develop loving relationships within our team. To get away from our comfort zones and experience the discipline of hardships. To confront the poverty in our own lives: pride, ethnocentrism, judgmentalism, etc.

**HOW MUCH:** We’ve kept our costs as low as possible – this is a “no frills” trip!  
The cost breakdown is as follows:

Cost	Expenses
\$450	Cost of building materials
\$75	Food, bottled water & ice
\$75	Motels/Lodging
\$200	Transportation / Insurance
\$800	TOTAL

Plus, a passport, a sack lunch, and money for 8 “fast food” meals on the road.

There are two payment options, explained further below:  
\$800  
or  
\$400 + 25 hours of Fundraising Projects.

# Questions Answered

## What's our tentative itinerary?

Sunday, June 9	7:00 am Luggage to church. Final instructions. Load up. 8:00 am. Attend worship service together, including commissioning prayer for team. 09:30 am Promptly depart. Sack lunch. Buy supper on the road.
Monday, June 10	8:30 am. Arrive in San Angelo, TX. Buy breakfast. Pick up the week's food at Sam's Club. Drive 3 hours to Del Rio, arriving at 2:00 pm. Rent vans. Buy lunch at Rudy's. Park bus. Cross over into Mexico. Get settled in Mexican church. Eat dinner. Sleep.
Tuesday-Thursday, June 11-13	Build 2 homes.
Friday, June 14	Finish/Dedicate. Shopping at market. Cross to Del Rio, TX. Return vans. Supper (provided) Hotel. Shower. Sleep.
Sat, June 15	Drive to Wichita, KS. Hotel.
Sun, June 16	Drive home to NCBC. Sharing time at 6:30 pm.

**What's the daily schedule?** We get up around 5:30 am, eat breakfast, and travel to work sites by 7:00 am. Depending on how close the sites are to our host church and our construction progress we'll either come back to the church for a siesta lunch or stay onsite. We'll typically work until it gets dark, between 7-8 pm. Supper will be waiting for us at the host church. Bedtime is around 10 pm. During work breaks we'll have devotional time and team-building activities.

**Can we really build an entire house in 4 days?** Yes, it's an amazing thing to realize that 15-20 people can put together a building that will be called "home" by a family for years and years to come. All projects start from bare ground, leveling the dirt, building forms, smoothing cement, framing walls, raising & decking the roof, installing the electricity, applying stucco to the outside walls, and insulating and dry-walling the inside. You'll learn skills that will last a lifetime!

**Who decides who gets a home?** Casas por Cristo works in partnership with a local Pastors Committee, comprised of local Mexican pastors. The pastors solicit applications from church members, neighbors and families in the communities in which they work. Every application must receive

approval by the committee. Applicant selection is based on the families' need to obtain sufficient housing and means to do so. Each family must be able to prove ownership of land, provide water and have the land generally cleared and level in preparation for their team's arrival. Families are not required to be Christians or go to their sponsoring pastor's church. *Casas por Cristo* is a tool for the use of the local pastors to evangelize the community in Acuña. *Casas por Cristo* has 25 full-time staff, all of which are support-based missionaries.

***What will we eat and drink in Mexico?*** We will purchase food in Texas for our 11 meals in Mexico. Expect simple, but nutritiously-balanced meals. Let us know if you have special dietary needs. We will buy bottled water, since Mexican water is unsafe for us. To avoid dehydration, we're instructed to drink a gallon of water or Gatorade per person per day. We'll be careful to brush our teeth only with bottled water.

***Where will we stay in Mexico?*** We will be sleeping on the concrete floor of a Mexican church. Likely not air conditioned. Bring a single air mattress for one person or a queen if you plan for two people to share or a king for three people! Don't plan on many showers – water is limited and it's often not hot anyways! If showers are available, you will be asked to take military showers—get wet, turn the water off, soap-up, and then turn the water back on to rinse off your body. Don't drink the water in the shower. Those who survive the four days in Mexico without a shower are inducted into the esteemed "SPAMS Club" (Smelly People Against Mexican Showering)!



***Do we need any shots?*** A tetanus shot is the only immunization *Casas por Cristo* requires. We recommend having it within 5 years of your last one, but it must be within 10 years for sure. CVS, Walgreens, and the Hy-Vee Drugstore are good places to get tetanus shots without an appointment.

***Any other health care guidelines?*** It is the responsibility of every team member to consult with a travel doctor or other health professional to find out what specific immunizations and medications or other steps are uniquely needed. We will have general first aid kits, but you are responsible for your own unique health care needs. You are expected to bring a sufficient quantity of any unique meds or other medical treatments you may reasonably expect to need on the trip (such as insulin, blood pressure medicine, allergy medicine, an EpiPen, ADHD meds, etc.). It may be difficult or even impossible to obtain a safe, non-standard medication while across the border.

***What about insurance?*** New Covenant will purchase emergency medical insurance for all team members for coverage while in Mexico. The coverage covers most medical issues (though there may be limitations on pre-existing conditions) and includes emergency medical evacuation from Mexico. In most cases we will need to pay at the time of treatment and get reimbursed when we return from Mexico. *Details of the coverage and policy available upon request.*

***Is it safe?*** We'll use common sense, follow the guidelines we're given and use every safety precaution, such as not drinking any tap water. There is always some risk every time you leave the door of your house, but we're trusting God to work through this trip through comfort or hardship—as He wills. In the over 5,000 houses that *Casas* has built they have not had one single incident of crime (other than theft

--and most of that was due to vans being left unlocked). We'll have constant radio contact with the *Casas* office in Del Rio and there is an emergency room just across the border in case of emergencies. In our fourteen trips we've only had to cross back over three times for medical attention, once for walking pneumonia, once for a spider bite, and once for a kidney stone. If you would like to view Casa's "risk management" policy, check out their website, [www.Casasporcristo.org](http://www.Casasporcristo.org).

***What about the Mexican border violence in the news?*** The violence that we used to hear about in the news over the past decade or so was largely restricted to encounters with police and drug gangs. Rarely were Americans involved and – even more rarely – missionaries. And the overall situation has improved greatly in the past several years. Our Short Term Missions leadership team subscribes to a comprehensive safety report. By looking at this report, watching the news, as well as talking to other missions team leaders who regularly go to Mexico, the Missions Committee and the Elder Board determined back in 2015 that it was reasonable to resume our annual trips. Our trips in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 confirmed this feeling of safety. Today, the missions team continues to monitor the border conditions. Those signed up for the trip will be kept informed of any potential issues or concerns as needed. If security issues rise above a certain level, the Missions Committee and Elders are informed to get their input. While we hope never to exercise this option, we reserve the right to cancel a trip at any time due to security concerns.

***Can we call home from Mexico?*** Plan not to. Acuña has poor cell phone coverage. The best way to reach us is through the *Casas por Cristo* office, which can be used to relay emergency information. We will give families the emergency contact numbers prior to the trip. As for our travel time in the U.S., we want our focus to be on the missions experience. Separation from friends back home is one aspect of missionary life we want to fully experience. Since this is primarily a high school focused trip, we do not allow cell phones for students at all on this trip. Other adults attending will have somewhat more flexibility, but we want to maintain that spirit of disconnecting from technology. We will communicate about the trip on a special Facebook group and Smugmug photo album. Adults' phones can be used for necessary phone contact while in the US. Due to limited communication, family members should expect few updates – if any – during the four days we are in Mexico.

***What will we wear?*** The cross-cultural experience is very evident here. Most conservative churches in Mexico consider shorts indecent so we'll need to be sensitive to our environment. Shoes, shirts, & pants should be worn at all times in Mexico except in our host church. No cut-off shirts or pants or ripped clothing. Girls: bring at least one skirt, below the knees, to be worn during church or dedication service and guys one button up shirt. We want to do only those things that build up the reputation and witness of the local churches we'll be serving. No yoga pants are allowed as per *Casas* rules. As for sleepwear in Mexico, everyone should plan on long shorts and a t-shirt. During the trip between home and Mexico and back, we'll implement the same code. Details will be given in the packing list you'll get at the orientation prior to the trip.

***Will we have any fun activities?*** Yes, it's fun to serve the Lord! Yet our focus for this trip will be on serving and not on being entertained, so be sure to come with that mindset!

***What do I bring?*** A full pre-trip checklist will be given out at the Mexico Orientation Meeting on Sunday, May 19 at 12:30 pm. The only somewhat unusual things to bring will be the following:

a personal insulated water container (2 qt or larger), a wide brimmed hat, sunscreen, air mattress, bandana, a 16 oz minimum hammer (framing hammer recommended), safety glasses or sunglasses, work gloves, tool belt or nail apron, tape measure, and baby wipes (your new best friend!) Those who wear contact lenses may want glasses along if the dust is bad. Hair dryers and curling irons are not permitted in Mexico! Everything you bring must fit in your luggage tub or backpack!

***Do we need passports?*** Federal Law now requires all team members to have a valid Passport (valid anywhere in the world) or a Passport Card (valid for land crossings to Mexico or Canada only). **You may not apply for this trip until your passport/passport card has been applied for.** Also note that border patrol prefers passports that aren't within 6 months of expiring, so check your expiration date and renew accordingly. Costs vary depending on your age: Passports cost between \$105-\$135. Passport Cards cost between \$40-\$55. They are good for 10 years for those 16 years or older, 5 years if under 16.

***Do we really need luggage tubs?*** We always use a standardized 27-gallon luggage tub for our Mexico trips to ensure that everything fits in the trailer, to minimize the number of luggage items, and to gain floor space when they're stacked. Almost everything must fit in your one tub (air mattress, clothes, tools, etc.) The church will loan you your tub, which will be given out at the Mexico Orientation meeting on Sunday, May 19 at 12:30 pm (or any time after that).



***What else can I bring?*** In addition to the luggage tub which goes in the trailer, you may carry with you on the bus a pillow and a small string backpack to be stored under your seat. There will not be a lot of extra room on the bus so everyone will need to pack light!

***Will there be any fundraisers?*** Yes, if you opt for the \$400 payment plan, which requires 25 hours of Fundraising Projects. We'll be doing group Fundraiser Projects together, as well as letter writing as other options to raise money for the trip. There will be details later in this packet of how people can donate towards your trip either by check or online (through your "Public Profile" in Managed Missions – you can do this when you set up your profile).

Here's how the Group Fundraising works.

1. Dusty and the planning team will announce periodic group fundraising "work days" such as raking, yardwork, sweet corn sales (July-Sept), etc. When these opportunities arise, they will be posted at [www.tinyurl.com/MexicoWorkDays](http://www.tinyurl.com/MexicoWorkDays) . Please RSVP on that site so we know to expect you.
2. There are a limited number of projects, based on those who tell us they want to "hire" help from our team. We cannot guarantee there will be enough jobs to make the suggested 25 hours, especially if you don't start until spring. Sending out fundraising donation letters might be a better plan for some.
3. In order to get the discounted \$400 trip price, you must have logged a total of 25 hours before the final payment due date of June 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have not completed your 25 hours by June 1 expect to pay an

additional \$16.00 for each hour you fell short (i.e. \$400 divided by 25 hours). Total “hours logged” are tallied at <http://tinyurl.com/MexicoFundraisingHours>. If you see a need for any corrections or need to transfer hours from another person, contact Jacob Bran [jacobbran116@gmail.com](mailto:jacobbran116@gmail.com)

***Will there be any scholarships?*** We encourage everyone to write letters asking for prayer for the trip and, if needed, financial support. Any monetary donations directed to you can offset the portion you would have to pay (sample below). If finances are still a hindrance to you attending, please talk to Dusty Jones. Depending on an assessment of your needs it might be possible for you to participate in extra Group Fundraising Projects – beyond the 25 hours – to further lower your cost.

## ***Are there any other expectations?***

1. Unless otherwise approved, team members must be regular (i.e. “almost weekly”) attenders of New Covenant Bible Church (as evidenced by checking in at an attendance kiosk if a high school student). They must be physically and emotionally well enough to handle the rigors of a missions trip such as this and must have a good reputation of Christian character qualities.
2. Prior to our departure, we’re requiring that each team member read the first seven chapters of the book, *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. We have a copy to loan everyone, which we will hand out at the orientation on May 19th. This book is foundational to understanding what we’re trying to accomplish with this trip and we’ll be discussing it during the trip.

***Are there orientation meetings?*** Yes, we will have two culture and team training/orientation meetings on Sunday afternoons, April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 19th in the high school room at church. We want you to have the best possible experience as you enter into another culture and help those in need. At the first meeting we’ll do culture/missions training and introduce the book *When Helping Hurts*. At the second meeting we’ll hand out luggage tubs, give you a detailed packing list, and answer any remaining questions. We’ll have a make-up training/orientation for those unable to attend.

***Will there be a trip report for family and friends?*** Since summertime is typically a time for people to travel it would be hard to get the whole team reunited for a report. Therefore, we will do our trip report immediately upon our return. The plan is to arrive home at 6:30 pm on Sunday, June 16. Before even unloading the trailer, we will all come into the High School room for a fresh(!) report of our trip! Then we will unload and go home!

***How do I sign up?*** I’m glad you asked! The application is coming soon, right after you read the rules...

# Mexico Trip Guidelines

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**A WORD ABOUT THE RULES:** *Because this trip includes high schoolers, the rules are set accordingly. It'll generally be important for adults to acquiesce to these guidelines to provide the best environment for them. Adults: if you think you need to take personal exception to these guidelines, please talk to Dusty first.*

**Decision Making** Pastor Dusty Jones, NCBC Trip Leaders (and any other designated adult), and Casas por Cristo leaders have the authority to make decisions and are to be obeyed at all times. If you disagree with a decision or rule, your obligation is to immediately comply, and later bring your concern to Dusty, who will make any final decisions.

**Respect** Every team member has the right to be treated respectfully at all times. Any problem, concern or disagreement with a leader or with another team member should be handled in a biblical manner (following the principles in Matthew 18).

**Safety** For safety reasons, team members must always remain in the vicinity of the leaders. We must always know how to reach you in case of an emergency. Be where you are supposed to be when asked so the group is not waiting for you. Also, do not give out your address, phone number or email to individuals you meet.

**Participation** Unless you are ill, every team member is expected to actively participate in the planned activities during the Mexico trip, including team meetings, devotions, debriefings, and other activities planned by the team leader or national leader.

**PDA** To avoid awkwardness, cliquiness, and distracting from the purpose of our trip, we do not allow PDA (public displays of affection) between couples, unless you are married. Our trip is not a date: it is a group experience, where we treat each other equally as brothers and sisters. Non-married couples may not hold hands, cuddle, lay on one another, isolate themselves, flirt, etc. Married couples may touch with consideration to others.

**Sleep** Stay out of sleeping areas of opposite sex. Bedtime is firm: no staying up past or getting up before the times designated by Dusty and/or the trip leaders. Men and women will sleep separately, including the overnight bus ride. Married couples will not have private accommodations.

**Courtesy** Our focus will be on building relationships and on creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere away from distractions. Therefore, there will be no gambling, profanity, or immodest attire. No cell phones for students.

**Modesty** These are the modesty guidelines for everyone (guys and girls). Casas por Cristo requires this dress code and we also want to avoid attire that might distract or be a stumbling block to anyone.

- **Tops:** Shirts with sleeves only: no tank tops, muscle shirts, halter tops, tube tops, bare midriffs, etc.
- **Bottoms:** Shorts that are worn must extend down as far as your fingertips when your arms are extended straight down. No yoga/spandex pants or torn pants are allowed by Casas.
- **Pajamas:** Same "tops and bottoms" rules apply whenever you're in the presence of the opposite sex.

**Serious Discipline** must be required for the following and will likely result in a discussion about how best to send you home: Sexual activity; Wandering off by yourself; Tobacco; drug; or alcohol use; Blatant or repeated disrespect; and/or Disobedience to leaders.

# Application Checklist

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To hold your spot, you need to verify completion of these **FIVE THINGS**, which are listed on the application form...

1. **PASSPORT** To apply you must provide your Passport or Passport Card number or the date of passport application. You'll need to turn in your passport at the orientation meeting prior to the trip – we have a safe where we'll keep them.
2. **TETANUS SHOT** To apply you must verify that you have had a tetanus shot in the past 10 years, preferably in the last 5 years.
3. **\$100 DEPOSIT** To apply you must pay a \$100 deposit, which must be paid with a credit/debit card. This payment happens when you set up your online account (#5 below). The deposit and subsequent balance payments are refundable if for some reason your application is not approved or if you withdraw and someone takes your spot. [The balance will be due by June 1.]
4. **FOUR APPLICATION FORMS (found on the next page of this packet)**
  - NCBC Mexico Trip Paper Application Form
  - New Covenant's "Medical, Liability, and Info Release" Form (2 pages)
  - "Disclosure of Risk, Agreement of Waiver, Release and Hold Harmless" [Required by *Casas*]
  - "Parental/Guardian Consent for International Travel" form (for those under 18 only)

We need this notarized consent form giving us permission to take minors across the border. The US State Department's website states: "Notarized consent from parent(s) required for children under age 18 traveling alone, with one parent, or in someone else's custody". Most banks offer notary service, and there are several notary publics in our church, including Gina Kaufman and Sharon Pagel. People 18 and older don't need this form.
5. **Create a Managed Missions Account and complete the online app.**

Your last step before turning in your paperwork will be to set up an online account through our Managed Missions system (or log in if you have gone on a past trip and already set up an account). Once set up or logged in, complete the online application. All New Covenant mission trips use Managed Missions for tracking payments and for team communications. It is also how you set up a way for people to donate online. **Two important notes:** If it asks you to select a trip, just hit next and skip that step. Using the link below will take you to the Mexico application. Also, if you don't have a Passport number yet, just skip that question. We can fill it in when your Passport arrives. To set up your account go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/NCMexico2019>

**Once these requirements are completed and approved, your spot on the trip will be reserved and your name will be put on the wall!**





# NCBC Mexico Trip Paper Application Form

***This application is for anyone participating on New Covenant’s “Mexico Team 2019” trip to Acuña, Mexico. Applications will not be accepted if any of the items below are missing or unanswered. After submission you will be notified promptly if your application is not accepted.***

**FULL LEGAL NAME** (of person attending) \_\_\_\_\_

☞ I have had a tetanus shot within the last ten years.  Yes  No (comment if “No” \_\_\_\_\_)

☞ By June 1 I plan to have paid a total of...  
 \$800  \$400 plus 25 Fundraising Hours  \$400 plus some combination of \$ and \*Fundraising Hours  
(\*which deduct \$16.00 ea. from your balance)

☞ I have set up my online Managed Missions account, completed the online app, and paid the \$100 deposit.  Yes

☞ If you’ve applied for a passport, but it hasn’t arrived yet, what date was it applied for? \_\_\_\_\_

### **ALL PARTICIPANT’S declaration of cooperation**

*I have read the above information and guidelines for the Mexico trip and I want to be a part of the team. I will work hard without complaining, and I am aware of what standard of conduct is expected of me, including leaving my cell phone at home (if student). I understand that should I violate the rules I will be sent home at our own expense.*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **PARENTS’ understanding of trip information and guidelines**

*FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND BELOW... Our child named above has our permission to attend the New Covenant Bible Church trip to Acuna, Mexico from June 9-16, 2019. We have read the information and guidelines for the Mexico trip and we give our consent for our child to attend. We also give our consent for the enforcement of the above guidelines, realizing that we will be consulted should any serious discipline be necessary. We are willing to arrange and pay for transportation of our child back home after consultation with Mark Forstrom should dismissal be deemed necessary.*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Return this application and other forms to:***

**Dusty Jones – NCBC Mexico 2019  
3090 N Center Point Rd  
Cedar Rapids IA 52411**

***Or email them to: [dusty.jones@newcovenantbible.org](mailto:dusty.jones@newcovenantbible.org)***



# Medical, Liability, and Info Release Form

For New Covenant Global Outreach Short Term Mission Teams

*One form needed for each short term mission team participant.*

*Please fill out completely before turning it in to Dusty Jones.*

FULL LEGAL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAY \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

## HEALTH HISTORY AND INFORMATION:

List all known allergies:  Insect Stings  Hay Fever  Drugs: \_\_\_\_\_

Other allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Medical Conditions (including any for which you take medication):

Heart Condition  Chronic asthma  Epilepsy  Diabetes

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**If you checked any of the above, please give written details on the back of this sheet or on another sheet of paper (i.e. include normal treatment of allergic reactions).**

Name and dosage of any medications that must be taken: \_\_\_\_\_

If person listed is a minor, do you give permission to administer OTC medication (i.e. Tylenol, Advil, Pepto-Bismol, Dramamine, etc) as needed:  No  Yes

If person listed is a minor, any swimming or activity restrictions:  No  Yes (If "yes", explain)

DOCTOR \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## HEALTH INSURANCE

Do you have health insurance?  No  Yes (If "no," skip this section)

Insurance Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company Phone #: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Insured (usually head of household): \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment Phone #: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL RELEASE FOR NEW COVENANT GLOBAL OUTREACH SHORT TERM TEAMS**

"I \_\_\_\_\_ the undersigned listed below, do hereby authorize any necessary examination, anesthetic, dental, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment by any duly licensed physician or dentist and hospital service that may be rendered to me under the guardian, specific, or special consent of the temporary custodian of me; whether such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the office of the physician or dentist, or at a licensed hospital. I authorize the physician or dentist to call in any necessary consultants at his/their best judgment as to the requirements of such diagnosis or medical, dental or surgical treatment. It is further understood that those persons who have temporary custody of me will attempt to talk with the emergency contact via the telephone numbers listed below before treatment is rendered."

**PHOTO AND INFORMATION RELEASE**

"I hereby give permission for the use of pictures and/or video/audio recordings of the individual (or minor) listed on this form for the purposes of promoting and reporting NCBC events, including on NCBC websites, without compensation to me or the minor. I agree all pictures and recordings remain NCBC property. I release NCBC from any liability arising out of the use of such pictures or recordings. I also give permission for use of pictures and captions containing my name to be displayed in printed materials and on social media such as the website Facebook."

**LIABILITY RELEASE**

Every activity sponsored by this church is carefully planned and adequately supervised by mature adults. However, even with the best of planning and precaution, unforeseen events can occur. Knowing this

"I agree to assume and accept all risks and hazards inherent in church-related mission trip activities. I also agree not to hold this church or its employees or volunteer assistants liable for damages, losses, or injuries."

If signing for a minor: "I understand that I am signing for the minor listed on this form and in my own capacity as parent or legal guardian and the signature is for medical, liability and photo/information release."

*I have fully read the medical, photo/information, and liability release statements and understand them.*

Short term trip destination: Ciudad Acuña Dates: June 9-16, 2019

Signature of team member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name of Team member: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or guardian if under 18: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name of Parent or Guardian if member under 18: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**DISCLOSURE OF RISK, AGREEMENT OF WAIVER,  
RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS**

**N E W C O V E N A N T B I B L E C H U R C H**

Jun 9-16 2019

**Team Name**

**Date of Trip**

I,

**First Name, Last Name**

**Date of Birth**

of,

**Street Address**

,  ,  , and

**City**

**State**

**Zip Code**

**Email**

**hereby agree and acknowledge:**

1. I understand that any travel, volunteer work, or other activities I undertake in connection with Casas por Cristo involves inherent risks to my property, health, and life and I further understand the nature of such risks.
2. No principal, officer, agent, employee, or other person associated with or acting on behalf of Casas por Cristo has disavowed or contradicted anything in this document, including the statements regarding the existence and nature of the risks involved.
3. The undersigned recognizes and acknowledges that Casas por Cristo is a charitable, non-profit corporation engaged in human services and relief activities. The undersigned, for himself/herself, and members of this team, does hereby freely and knowingly waive any and all actions, causes of actions, claims, and demands for or by reason of loss of life, bodily injury loss, including, but not limited to the contraction of any endemic diseases, costs, damage, or expense for any act, or omission on the part of a third party upon the part of Casas por Cristo or any of its officers, agents, servants, or employees for anything in any way arising from or connected with, either directly or indirectly, any volunteer activities of the undersigned volunteer or of Casas por Cristo. The undersigned realizes that activities which he/she intends to pursue may entail some amount of risk or possible danger and desires to personally assume such risks.
4. This agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Texas. This agreement is to be governed by the laws of the state of Texas. If any portion of this agreement is held invalid, it is agreed that the remainder shall nevertheless continue in full force and effect.
5. I enter into this agreement freely and voluntarily in consideration of the permission to participate in the activities described herein and of the benefits associated with such activities. I understand that this agreement is contractual and binding upon me.
6. I have read this document and understood and agreed to all of its contents before signing it.

*For up-to-date information about travel outside the U.S.A., please visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) or call 888.407.4747*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Parent of Guardian Print**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent or Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City and State where signed**

***Please fill out and give to your Team Leader to be scanned and emailed to [scheduling@casasporcristo.org](mailto:scheduling@casasporcristo.org)***



*(This page is only required for those who will be under 18 during the trip, in which case it needs to be filled out by parents and notarized.)*

**Parental/Guardian Consent for International Travel**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am the (\_\_\_\_) parent (\_\_\_\_) legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (my child) and I hereby state that I have given my permission and consent for my child to travel with the following person and group:

Person with whom my child is traveling: Dustin Jones  
Address: 160 28<sup>th</sup> St. Ct.  
Marion, IA 52302  
Passport No. 459645996  
Passport Issue Date: 03/18/2010  
Relationship to my child: Pastor  
Relationship to me: Pastor

Group with whom my child is traveling: New Covenant Bible Church  
Travel Dates: Jun 9-16, 2019  
Destination: Ciudad Acuña, Mexico

Additional information about my child:  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Country of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Passport No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Passport Issue Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Allergies and/or Special Medical Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions regarding this document may be addressed to me at:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

DATED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledged before me on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_





## **Sample Letter requesting Prayer and Financial Support**

*(An electronic version of this can be copy-&-pasted then customized from [www.tinyurl.com/nbcmexicoletter](http://www.tinyurl.com/nbcmexicoletter))*

January 10, 2019

Dear Friends and Family,

God has provided an exciting opportunity for me to be involved in a cross-cultural ministry to Mexico this summer. This construction trip is being sponsored by New Covenant Bible Church and will be their 16<sup>th</sup> such trip to Mexico. They have already built 41 houses with an organization called *Casas por Cristo* ([www.Casasporcristo.org](http://www.Casasporcristo.org)) and I'm excited to help add to that total.

Our team of about 40 people plans to build two more homes for these materially poor people who live in adverse conditions. Mexican pastors have asked us to come build these homes as a way to "jump start" these families out of hopelessness. The houses we build are modest by our standards (similar to a three-car garage here), but a big blessing by theirs. We also want to love the families we serve, display Christ-like attitudes, have a hard work ethic and provide a platform for ongoing ministry by these local pastors.

But we're also planning to receive every bit as much as we give. Seeing how others live, learning about their culture, and considering what they value are all ways to help us Americans grow out of our pride and ethnocentrism. This trip recognizes that every human experiences poverty of various kinds, so I'm expecting to gain as much as I give!

For a ministry like this to be successful in God's eyes, we need prayer partners to remember us while we are gone. Would you commit to pray for us? Pray for our health and safety while we travel. Pray for good relationships with the families. Pray for God to open their eyes and hearts to the good news of His love for them and for our eyes to be open to what we need to learn. Pray that we would be a blessing to everyone we meet. You can indicate your commitment to be a prayer partner by filling out the enclosed response slip.

The cost for the building materials is \$8,400 per house. That, along with transportation, food, and housing costs bring the total for each person to \$800. Some of that money I'm paying myself and some I'm earning by doing group fundraising projects. If you would like to contribute toward my remaining expenses I would be so grateful. Instructions are below.

Please fill out the enclosed donation slip and return it with a check made payable to "New Covenant" and put "Mexico Project 339" in the memo. **(If you want your donation to be tax-deductible please do not put my name on the check – only on the donation slip).** You should mail the response slip and check back to me or to "GO – Mexico 2019 / New Covenant Bible Church / 3090 N Center Point Rd / Cedar Rapids IA, 52411." If you prefer to give online, go to [app.managedmissions.com/MyTrip/\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](http://app.managedmissions.com/MyTrip/_____) **<Trip Participant – you will need to insert the exact web address from your online profile here in the letter>**. Just click on the "donate" button and follow the directions to donate towards the trip.

Thanks so much for considering supporting me and our team! I can't wait to see how God uses this trip in my life and in the lives of others.

Sincerely in Christ,

[Your name]

**<Be sure to include a copy of the response form on the next page with your letter. Add your name where it says, "Team Member" and your Public Profile website under "To give online" if you set that up to all of the forms before you send them. You can then cut them in thirds to include one in each letter.>**



## Mexico Trip 2019 Support Form

- I will pray for the following team member:
- My gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. Please use it for the following team member:

**Team member:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to "New Covenant" and put "Mexico Project 339" in the memo and mail to the individual team member or return to the church office:

**GO – STM / New Covenant Bible Church  
3090 N Center Point Rd / Cedar Rapids IA, 52411**

To give online, go to [app.managedmissions.com/MyTrip/](http://app.managedmissions.com/MyTrip/) \_\_\_\_\_

Donor name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support. Tax deductible receipts are sent out once a quarter.**

**Note: If an individual is unable to participate on a trip, or if more funds are raised than are needed for the trip, the unused funds will be invested in current or future short term mission trips.**

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