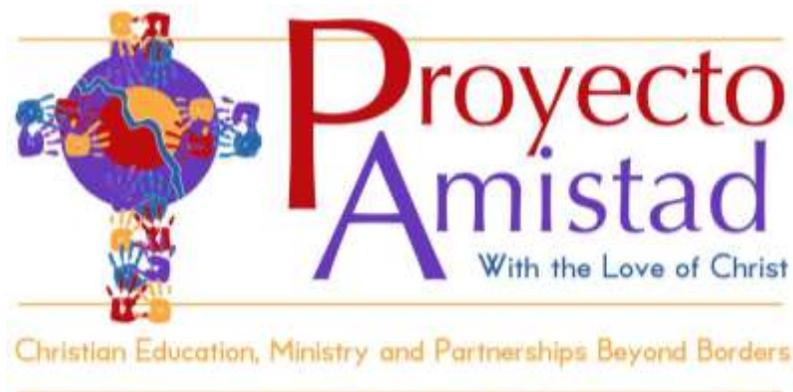


Amistad Missionary Encounters 2016

A Manual for Mission Teams



“From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work.” Ephesians 4:16

**Proyecto Amistad
P.O. Box 17866
San Antonio, TX. 78217
Telephone Mex. 011-52-867-736-6121
www.proyectoamistad.org
proyectoamistad@gmail.com
Proyecto Amistad is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization**

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Proyecto Amistad Mission Statement

We understand partnership in mission to be that disciplined approach that assumes the goals can best be accomplished by joining hands with those who share a common vision. Partnership in mission involves two or more organizations who agree to submit themselves to a common task or goal—mutually receiving and giving and surrounded by prayer so that God's work can be more faithfully accomplished. Theologically and biblically, partnership is based upon the fundamental belief that God's desire for the world is greater than any one church can possibly comprehend or envision. God's purpose for us in mission is fulfilled as different and differing communities—Christian, secular and other faith communities—find common ground and are brought together in mutual submission and commitment to serve the people and world God created (Phil. 2:5-11)

In mission there must be an awareness that partnership demands all partners seek:

- ❖ to answer God's call in mission, not serve our own needs by "doing good;"
- ❖ opportunities for initiatives in mission by any partner, not one-sided efforts;
- ❖ mutual respect, not paternalism;
- ❖ to be independent (self-propagating, self-supporting, self-governing) church partners with a mission vision, not dependent churches focused on survival;
- ❖ interdependent partnerships that are of benefit to all partners, not one-sided dependent relationships;
- ❖ mutuality, not one-way mission;
- ❖ opportunities and recognition for the "least of these," not exploitation to the benefit of the more powerful;
- ❖ a growing web of partnerships, not exclusive sets or private domain;
- ❖ to move to action together in ecumenical partnership, not simply to establish an "ecumenical relationship;"
- ❖ to meet the holistic needs of churches and people(s), not serve narrow agendas;
- ❖ open dialogue, prophetic challenge and mediation of differences, not coercive or manipulative imposition of solutions;
- ❖ to honor the integrity of the church context, structures and social dynamics, not to subsidize another's central church life nor exert undue pressure to change or to conform; and
- ❖ we seek the day when Christ's Church in all its diversity may show its unity for the sake of the gospel, not promoting or being content with division.

The Church of Mexico

Though Proyecto Amistad does not limit its ministry to Presbyterian circles, due to its historic relationship to Presbyterian entities in both the US and Mexico, our history of the church in Mexico focuses on the development and relationship between the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico and the Presbyterian Church USA (and its predecessors).

Missionaries began their work in Mexico in the early 1870s after US Army Chaplains returning home from the US-Mexico War described how few Mexicans knew Jesus Christ as Savior. The National Presbyterian Church of Mexico (INPM) was established in 1872. A General Assembly was formed in 1947. However, the Mexican Church remained under the care of the Presbyterian Churches of the United States.

In 1972 the Mexican church celebrated its centennial. At the same time, it decided to sever its relationship with the Presbyterian churches of the United States. One hundred years had created dependence on the US church, fostering an unhealthy relationship. The US churches made major decisions for the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico and the church felt it time to cut the umbilical cord. It wanted to determine its own destiny, meet its own budgets, and discover its identity as a national Mexican church.

In Mexico, Protestants are a minority, only 11% of the total population. Prior to what was called the "Reforma" (the Reform), of the mid 1850s, the Roman Catholic Church wielded enormous economic, political, and religious power. Today, most Mexicans consider themselves Catholic, but the majority are such only by tradition. Most do not actively practice their faith. Even those who do practice the Catholic faith are not considered Christian (nor do they call themselves Christians) by Protestants. Protestant churches are considered sects by the Roman Catholic Church of Mexico. The reasons for the animosity between Catholics and Protestants are many and have their source deep in Mexico's political, cultural and religious history. In short, the Roman Catholic Church of Mexico emphasizes loyalty to Church traditions and the Virgin of Guadalupe more than the individual's relationship with the Living God through Jesus Christ. For this reason, most who come to faith in Christ find it very difficult to remain in the Catholic Church.

In some areas of Mexico, Roman Catholics still persecute evangelicals. Even today, some of your brothers and sisters, especially those in the south, may be subjected to theft, threats, arson, and even death solely because they do not participate in Roman Catholic traditions (including special celebrations for patron saints). For this reason, Mexican Presbyterians do not view ecumenism as U.S. Christians do.

Theologically the Churches in Mexico, are conservative and evangelical. Women are not ordained as either elders or pastors, although female missionaries are key to the church planting and Christian education programs. There are important Biblical and cultural reasons for the church's beliefs. Certain activities, such as smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, gambling, card-playing, and dancing are frowned upon by most Christians in Mexico. Since such activities are common vices in Mexican culture, avoiding them is one way Protestants in Mexico can witness to the change Christ has made in their lives. Out of respect for your hosts and their ministry, you are asked to refrain from these activities during your visit to Mexico.

The Amistad Mission Statement

Citizens of the United States of America and of the Republic of the United States of Mexico, believers in the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the unity and equality of all humanity, have organized the Corporation to facilitate the joint ministry of U.S. and Mexican churches, organizations, and individuals to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to a Statement of Faith reflecting biblical principles of relationship and Christian self government. This organization is intended to be characterized by its common devotion to Jesus Christ, and also by the historical fellowship and service of churches, organizations, and individuals originally developed by the Presbyterian Church (USA) ("PCUSA") and the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico ("INPM").

Amistad Faith Statement

We believe the Bible is our only rule – all sufficient for faith and practice – and was inspired by God to guide us in our daily lives.

We believe in God the Father, the creator and sustainer of the universe; God the Son, the one Redeemer; and God the Holy Spirit, and the three are one God.

We believe that God is sovereign and almighty and has established all things from before the foundation of the world.

We believe the family was established by God from the beginning of creation, male and female he created to live in unity and holiness, Genesis 1:27-28.

We believe that human salvation is only through faith in Jesus Christ. This is not transferable and its surety depends on the work that Jesus did for us and not what we do or fail to do.

We believe in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the Word of Christ, by whom the Christian is enabled to live a joyful and godly life; John 17:23, Colossians 1:27 and 3:16, Romans 8:9.

We believe the Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit; Ephesians 5:23 and 2:19-22, 1 Corinthians 12:27. All of us who are saved are called to serve, witness, advocate, and contribute, 1 Peter 4:10.

We believe in a divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry that has been provided by the Lord for various purposes: The worship of God; John 4:23-24 The evangelization of the world; Matthew 28:18-20 The edification of the body of Christ; Mark 16:15-20 The service to society; Acts 9:36, Galatians 6:5-10, Matthew 6:16 and 25:35-40.

We believe that the Kingdom of God is both a present and future reality, Matthew 6:10.

We believe and profess duly supported sound doctrine in the Word of God, written-logos and spoken-rhema, and not tradition or culture or rules of men, confident that the Word is a light unto our path; Matthew 4:4. Through it minds and hearts will thus be renewed, lives may be redeemed, and families, communities and nations may be restored; 2 Peter 2:1, Galatians 5:16-25, Colossians 2:8, John 8:31-32, 1 John 1:10, Psalms 119:105, Proverbs 6:23, Romans 12:2, Deuteronomy 11:18-19 and 30:2-3, Isaiah 11:9b-10, and Malachi 4:4 and verse 6.

Mutual Mission on the US-Mexico Border

The intent of this covenant is to preserve and foster a true partnership in God's mission by providing opportunities to minister to one another in equal relationship as we work together to share the Good News along our common border. This means your team will be working with local church members, not for them.

Under this covenant, financial and material support for the Mexican church is also to be channeled through Amistad. Local congregations in Mexico may request support for specific projects through the local ministry. If approved, the request is added to the local ministry's annual budget and funds are sought through donors in the United States and Mexico. In this way, we avoid funding programs and activities that are not officially part of the local church's plans or for which outside support is unnecessary or inappropriate. If you are interested in supporting a Mexican congregation in any way, please speak with one of the ministry coordinators (**Roberto Medina or Susanne Frerichs**) who will be able to inform you of projects approved for support.

We also ask you not to bring anything to give away while you are with us unless the ministry coordinators have approved it. In some cases the local congregations have asked us to NOT accept such items because they can cause more harm to the evangelistic ministry than good. We have too often seen how inappropriate giving by well-intentioned North American Christians can cause conflict among neighbors and jealousies among church members. The misuse of gifts can undermine the local church's efforts and teaches new Christians that the church is where one goes to receive things, rather than where one goes to give of one's own gifts and worship the living God. Please be sensitive to ministry and local congregational desires in this respect. They have had extensive experience in their communities and know how to best meet the real needs of the people. They will let you know of appropriate ways to help those you meet in Mexico. Above all we ask that you come to Mexico seeking to learn from your brothers and sisters and receive the gifts they have to offer you. Remember, your visit and your support for their ministries is your gift to them and they will feel indebted to you. Allow them to reciprocate and remember that the best gifts we give and receive in mission together are non-material.

Welcome to the world of binational, cross-cultural, and mutual mission!
We are excited that you are willing to partner with us!

An Invitation from the Director

WELCOME!

It is a privilege and a joy for me to invite you to become a part of the great Proyecto Amistad family. God has blessed us with the opportunity to be the means through which you and your Mexican brothers and sisters may develop a relationship of fraternal love in Christ our Savior.

We want you to experience the ministry that Proyecto Amistad does as a facilitator of the relationships between you and the Churches and communities of Mexico and to have time to get to learn more about one another.

We also hope that you will learn how your Mexican brothers and sisters worship God, learn about our culture, taste the delicious Mexican food with its hot chile sauce, make new friends, participate in the construction and remodeling projects of church facilities and manses in Mexico, participate in Club Amistad Children programs and other educational ministries carried out by the Mexican churches, fellowship with your brothers and sisters, visit points of interest in our communities, and discover many other things, if only you accept the invitation to come to Mexico, to Proyecto Amistad, where we are awaiting you with open arms and the love of Christ; desiring that we might together experience mutual mission and friendship, and serve our neighbors.

We are ready. Don't think about it any more, just come and enjoy a different Christian experience, an experience that will bless your life and your relationship with Christ.

Jesus loves you and so do we. We'll be waiting for you!

ROBERTO MEDINA SOLIS
Director

Amistad's Mission Team Program

Believing that as Christians each of us, whatever our nationality, is a member of the one body of Christ, created for a purpose and having different gifts, according to the grace given us (Romans 12:3-8), Proyecto Amistad offers Mexican and American individuals and churches the opportunity to offer their gifts and receive those of the other as they participate together in God's Mission on their common border and into the interior of both nations. This is accomplished through the prayerful development of a program that intentionally works to break down barriers and help us live our unity in Christ.

Possible Locations

In 2016, Amistad mission teams may have the choice of ministering with their Mexican brothers and sisters from several congregations of Presbiterio del Noreste (border region between Del Rio and Laredo, TX and into the interior of northeastern Mexico including Saltillo and Monterrey) and the Presbiterio de las Huastecas (indigenous communities in cenral Mexico as well as some in the interior of Mexico. These congregations include:

Noreste Presbytery

- Fuente de Vida Presbyterian Congregation of Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila
- El Buen Pastor Presbyterian Congregation of Castaños, Coahuila
- La Nueva Jerusalén Presbyterian Mission of Castaños, Coahuila
- Divino Salvador Presbyterian Congregation of Sabinas, Coahuila
- Nueva Jerusalén Presbyterian Congregation of Santa Catarina, Nuevo León
- Monte Sion Presbyterian Mission of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas
- Ebenezer Presbyterian Mission of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas
- Victoria en Jesucristo Presbyterian Mission of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas
- Puerta del Cielo Presbyterian Church of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas
- La Hermosa Presbyterian Congregation of Saltillo, Coahuila
- Cristo la Roca mision of Saltillo, Coahuila
- Divino Redentor Presbyterian Mission of Ciudad Anáhuac, Nuevo León

Huastecas Presbytery

One of the 13 congregations under the Presbytery's care, which are all located between Tamazunchale, San Luis Potosi and Huejutla de Reyes, Hidalgo.

The exact location of your mission trip will depend on your group's preferences and the preferences of the host Presbyteries and churches in Mexico. In 2016, Amistad also hopes to facilitate mission trips for Mexican Presbyterian Churches into the interior of the United States. If your congregation is interested in hosting a Mexican team in your community, please contact the Director.

Mission Opportunities with the Presbytery of the Huastecas

The rural, indigenous Presbytery of the Huastecas located in southeastern San Luis Potosi and North central Hidalgo states of central Mexico welcomes teams from partner churches in the United States to participate with them in their ministries in the region. Opportunities include assisting with construction projects, Vacation Bible School, the Clubs Amistad programs, medical assistance, and evangelism campaigns.

The Presbytery of the Huastecas is conformed of 16 congregations located in the foothills of the Sierra Madre mountains; a semi-tropical region inhabited primarily by indigenous Nahuas who speak Nahuatl. Most churches are pastored by “tent makers” local to their communities. The population is primarily composed of subsistence farms who sustain themselves by the sale of their orange crops. Some keep cattle or honey bees as well, but government programs provide a significant portion of family income.

Given the special cultural and logistical realities of the Huastecas, teams are asked to keep their size to a maximum of 12. The smaller your team, the better your relationship-building capability. Teams stay in family homes and eat meals prepared by the local Presbyterian Women’s organization or individual families at no cost to the team. This is your Mexican brothers and sisters’ way of thanking you for your visit and your ministry among them.

As the culture is rural and traditional compared to the border or metropolitan areas of Mexico, teams committed to visiting the area need to be aware of certain adaptations they will need to make in order to effectively ministry within the culture. These adaptations include dress, language, and behaviors that we have grown accustomed to as normal, even within the Christian community in the US. Medical and technological services are not readily available so teams need to know that certain things commonly available at home will not be available during your trip. We ask that teams preparing to visit the Huastecas pay special attention to our Huasteca Coordinator’s instructions and lead your team through the necessary spiritual preparation for their engagement with their Nahual brothers and sisters and their neighbors, remembering that Jesus Christ is our missionary model. As we seek to share a message with others, we must do so in a way that they understand and can accept. All this said, know that your time in the Huastecas is guaranteed to be the experience of a lifetime.

Teams have a variety of options as far as travel to the area. You can drive from the border (12 hours from Laredo TX or 9 hours from McAllen, TX), fly into Tampico on the Gulf coast and ride a bus or rent a vehicle for the 3 hour drive to the Huastecas region, or fly into Mexico City and ride or drive to the region (5-6 hour drive).

Church Matching Process

Because Amistad now relates to Presbyterian congregations throughout Mexico, we have developed a process to match mission teams to host churches. This process begins with teams scheduling time on our calendar. We then solicit information about team preferences (location, host church, type of ministry, etc.). At the same time, we ask our partner churches in Mexico to let us know how many teams they wish to host and with what kinds of projects they would like the US teams to support them in (evangelism, construction, medical, educational, fellowship, etc.). Once information from all mission teams and host churches is received, Amistad personnel work to find the best matches, ask local churches to officially invite those teams matched to their congregation, and then make those invitations known to the mission teams. This is often a gradual process. We encourage churches to “partner” together for a few years for deeper relationships and committed ministry together.

Types of Teams

Construction Teams: Construction projects are determined by the host church and may include major construction, minor repairs, or general maintenance on local church facilities or the facilities of local schools, organizations, etc. Teams do not need to have special construction skills although recruiting team members who have such experience would be helpful. All equipment and supplies will be provided to your team and skilled laborers generally work with team members. But, if team members would like to bring their own tools, they are welcome to do so. We just recommend that all tools be clearly marked so they don't get confused with tools belonging to the ministry, the church, or individuals in the congregation.

Educational Teams: According to the needs demonstrated in each community, your team may be able to support local congregational ministries by teaching specialty courses such as sewing, swimming, English, culinary arts, woodworking, or home repair. Please encourage potential team members to think about what skills they have to offer.

Medical Teams: While none of the congregations currently have community health programs, medical personnel who are interested in education and prevention may offer special courses on specific health care topics or skills (CPR, diabetes, cancer prevention, etc.). Please discuss this option with Amistad personnel before your arrival so that we may talk with the host church about the possibilities.

Evangelism Teams: If your team would like to focus its ministry or a portion of it on assisting a local congregation with its evangelistic outreach, you are

invited to do so. Your program (which must fit into the local congregation's plans) may include distributing tracts or Bibles, helping with Club Amistad or Vacation Bible School (with a crafts, puppet shows, skit, songs), participating in a prayer walk, or showing an evangelistic movie.

Fellowship Teams: If you are simply interested in coming down to join one of our congregations in worship or share other fellowship activities with them, you are welcome to do so.

Team Costs

Teams of Week-Long and Weekend visits are required to make a **\$300.00** non-refundable deposit to secure their visit on our calendar. Please, send us this deposit in January. These funds help cover a portion of Amistad's administrative costs incurred before your visit while the coordinators are making plans with your host church which often requires extra travel.

Fellowship, Educational, Construction, Medical and Evangelistic Teams:

We ask that you provide a donation of **\$100.00 per person** for a week-long visit (4-6days) and \$50.00 per person for a weekend visit (1-3days). No funds are necessary for children under 12 years of age (unless they make up a majority of your team). Please send these funds to Amistad at least one month prior to your visit. This gives us time to forward the money to local church leaders so they can make preparations before you arrive.

Team Size Limitations

Due to work, transportation, and housing limitations, as well as our desire not to overwhelm our small Mexican congregations, all mission teams must be limited to 15 persons. It has been our experience that smaller teams are better able to participate and benefit from the relational aspect of the mission experience. If your team is primarily youth, please bring at least one adult for every five youth.

Mission Team Activities

A schedule of activities will be prepared for your team based on your service participation, your host congregation's plans and desires (we want them to show you and involve you in what THEY believe to be important for you to see and do), and your group's interests. Because our ministry seeks to facilitate your relationship with the local congregation and your understanding of the context in which we minister, we try to involve your team in all aspects of church and community life. This may include local celebrations, visits to local landmarks, maybe a visit to a maquiladora or other important employer, and

participation in worship activities. Visits to US and Mexican Immigration offices may also be possible when visiting border towns. You will be given a tour of the community and time to shop at the local market for souvenirs. The host congregation will also plan a day of recreation with your team. This will most likely mean a visit to a nearby park, pool, or ranch for a day of food, games and fellowship (and maybe even swimming!).

The following is a sample mission team schedule. It is meant to give you an idea of how your time might be spent while in Mexico. A schedule will be prepared especially for your team.

Sample Team Schedule

**Encuentros Misioneros/Missionary Encounters
First Presbyterian Church of Sapulpa OK. and
El Buen Pastor Presbyterian Church of Castaños. Coah.
Proyecto Amistad, July 21-24, 2016**

Thursday	21	9:00 Arrive in Laredo, TX 9:30 Get tourist permits to Castaños 10:30 Travel to Castaños 15:00 Arrive to Hotel and accommodation 18:00 worship with church 20:00 Dinner
Friday	22	8am Breakfast and Devotions 9am Church Work Project 1pm Lunch 2pm Rest 3 pm Church work project 5pm shower time and preparation for dinner 8pm Dinner at family house
Saturday	23	8am Breakfast and Devotions 9am Church Work Project 10am participation with children at Club Amistad classes (you can organize a craft activity and songs) 1pm lunch 2pm time for fellowship with children of Club Amistad. 3pm Finish the construction project 5 pm go to hotel for shower 7pm Worship and fellowship with church.
Sunday	24	9:00 am Breakfast at church 10:30 am Church Worship 12:00 pm Lunch

¡Hasta Pronto!

Travel

Please note that the following is very general information, provided to give you an idea of the options available to you and their approximate costs.

Travel and Auto Insurance

Mission teams are responsible for their own transportation throughout your trip. We suggest that you bring as few vehicles as possible. If you plan to fly, a San Antonio arrival is suggested. Check with www.fellowship.com (1-800-2-fly-FTI) for mission group rates. Both Eagle Pass/Piedras Negras and Del Rio/Acuña are two and a half hours from San Antonio while Laredo/Nuevo Laredo is three hours. You may rent vehicles in San Antonio. One agency that rents vans is www.cappsvanrental.com (1-210-822-8655). Be aware that not all vehicles can cross the border. When you reserve one, be sure to let the agency know you will be taking the vehicle into Mexico and that Mexican insurance is included in the price quote they give you. Make sure rental papers indicate a different driver for each vehicle. If you plan to drive private vehicles to the border, make sure all vehicle/s have Mexican coverage. You will want to have full coverage, Mexican auto insurance. One of many places you can purchase your insurance online is at www.bajabound.com or phone 888-552-2252. If you bring borrowed vehicles and the owner is not present, you need written permission (notarized) from the owner giving permission to one or more of your team members to take the vehicle into Mexico. All drivers of vehicles must carry valid US Driver's Licenses.

Transportation into the Interior of Mexico

If you plan to fly into your Mexico destination, please contact the Director or Huastecas Coordinator for assistance in making decisions about your flight destination and mode of travel once in Mexico. Please note that team members will need tourist visas for their travel in Mexico. Read the section entitled "Tourist Visas for Travel in Mexico" for more information. Everyone is required to have a passport.

If you plan to drive to your destination, Amistad's Coordinators will meet you at a mutually determined Mexican port of entry along the border, most likely to be Laredo/Nuevo Laredo or Eagle Pass TX/Piedras Negras, in order to assist you in obtaining the necessary permits for both your team members and your vehicles, and accompany you on your trip. Please read the following about these permits.

Temporary Importation Permits for Vehicles into the Interior

Vehicles of non-Mexican origin cannot be taken further than about 25 miles of the US-Mexico border without special permission. While you will probably cross the border without being stopped, on your way south you will be stopped at a Mexican Immigration and Customs Office where you will need to get what's called Temporary Importation Permits for all vehicles (in addition to personal visas, see below). This permit currently costs \$51.00 dollars plus tax and is charged to the credit card (that must be in the owner's name) of the owner or individual given permission to import it (or paid in cash along with a \$400.00 cash deposit). The permit is granted for six months. The permit MUST be cancelled by the expiration date and can ONLY be cancelled at a Mexican Immigration and Customs Office near the border. Thus, unless you KNOW that the vehicle will be returning to the Mexican interior within 6 months, you will want to cancel this permit on your way out of Mexico. Your credit card will only be charged the \$51.00 dollars. See below for a list of the documents you will need for this permit and for travel in Mexico in general. If you have ANY questions or concerns about this permit or its requirements, please contact the US office. We do not want you to be inconvenienced by denial of this permit! Note: This temporary import permit is also available at Mexican consulates in the US as well as through the internet, though the owner or drive of the vehicle must first secure his personal travel visa before soliciting the vehicle permit.

If you are bringing RENTED VEHICLES, you will need:

1. Written permission from the rental company for you to take the vehicles into the interior of Mexico (likely to be noted on the contract).
2. The rental contract (make sure the VIN on the vehicle is the same as that recorded on the contract).
3. The driver's license, tourist visa, passport, and valid credit card in the name of the person responsible for the vehicle (the person stated on the rental contract). If this person does not have a credit card, he/she must have \$400.00 cash to leave as a deposit with the Mexican Custom's Office. The only credit cards accepted are VISA, MASTERCARD, or AMERICAN EXPRESS. Each vehicle in party, rental or private, must have a different registered driver.
4. Photocopies of **all** of these documents (will save you time and money when you get to Mexico. They charge 50 cents a copy at the permit center!).

If you do not have all of these things, the vehicles will NOT be allowed into Mexico.

If bringing PRIVATE VEHICLES owned by team members, those owner/team members will need:

1. The vehicle's title or the current receipt for the vehicle's registration.
2. If the team member is related to the owner, but not the stated owner in vehicle documentation, he/she must bring either proof of relationship to the

owner (marriage certificate or birth certificate) or a notarized letter by the owner giving him/her permission to take the vehicle into Mexico.

3. The owner's driver's license, tourist visa, passport, and a credit card in his/her name. The only credit cards accepted are VISA, MASTERCARD, or AMERICAN EXPRESS. If the individual does not have a credit card, he/she must have \$400.00 cash that can be left as a deposit with the Mexican Custom's Office.

4. Photocopies of all of these documents (will save you time and money when you get to Mexico. They charge 50 cents a copy at the permit center!).

If you do not have these things, the vehicles will NOT be allowed into Mexico.

If you bring VEHICLES OWNED BY THE CHURCH or other organization, you will need:

1. The vehicle's title (original)

2. The current vehicle registration receipt.

3. Written, and notarized, authorization from the owner/s of the vehicle (or their legal representative), for a named person to take the vehicle into Mexico or proof of that individual's employment by that church or organization (note that it is preferable to have both!).

4. The driver's license, tourist visa, passport, and a credit card in the name of the person authorized to take the vehicle into Mexico. The only credit cards accepted are VISA, MASTERCARD, or AMERICAN EXPRESS. If the individual does not have a credit card, he/she must have \$400.00 cash that can be left as a deposit with the Mexican Custom's Office.

5. Photocopies of all of these documents (will save you time and money when you get to Mexico. They charge 50 cents a copy at the permit center!).

If you do not have of these things, the vehicle will NOT be allowed into Mexico.

If you bring a vehicle that you are still making payments on, you will need:

1. The vehicle's current registration receipt.

2. The original contract letter given to you by the lender/lien holder (bank or credit institution).

3. The owner's driver's license, tourist visa, passport, and a credit card in his/her name. The only credit cards accepted are VISA, MASTERCARD, or AMERICAN EXPRESS. If the individual does not have a credit card, he/she must have \$400.00 cash that can be left as a deposit with the Mexican Custom's Office.

4. Photocopies of all of these documents (will save you time and money when you get to Mexico. They charge 50 cents a copy at the permit center!).

If you do not have these things, the vehicle will NOT be allowed into Mexico.

Individual's Tourist Visas for Travel in the Interior of Mexico

U.S. and Canadian permanent legal residents and citizens do not need special permits to travel within 25 miles of the US-Mexico border. However, all team members need proof of US/Canadian residence/citizenship when US Immigration authorities ask for it upon your return. Though there are a series of documents which validate proof of residency or citizenship, we recommend that every team member have a valid US passport (or permanent residence card). Youth and children under 18 may present an original birth certificate as proof of citizenship. Citizens of other countries who are not permanent resident aliens (ex. international students) must contact US and Mexican immigration offices in order to inquire about travel visas for Mexico and information about returns to the US.

If your destination takes you further than 25 miles of the US-Mexico border, each person will need a Tourist Visa. These visas may be granted by a Mexican consulate or embassy if you have one in your area. Otherwise, they can be obtained once you are in Mexico, whether you come by air or land. They are granted for 180 days and must be surrendered before that time (preferably when you exit Mexico, unless you plan to travel in Mexico again within those 6 months). They cost \$332.00 pesos or about **\$21.00** US dollars and is free if you travel by land and are in and out of the country in less than seven days.

U.S. or Canadian residents or citizens will need the following in order to get a Tourist visa:

1. A valid passport.
2. \$332.00 pesos or approx. \$21.00 dollars
3. If minors (under 18 years of age) are not accompanied by **both parents** or all guardians, the minor should have written permission to enter Mexico without their parent/s. A permission form is included in the back of this manual. Please have this signed and notarized in case Mexican officials ask for it.

Housing and Meals in Noreste Presbytery

Housing - Mission teams generally have three options for their housing while in Mexico. Once your destination is determined, you will receive more specific information about the options available to you team.

- Some host churches will allow you to “camp out” in the church facilities at no charge, if they are able to provide shower facilities. In some cases they even have foam pads and pillows available for your use.
- Some churches have member families who are able to host team members (in pairs) in their homes. We call this “home-stays”.
- Motels are available in all communities and average between **\$30.00 and \$55.00 dollars a night**. Please note that traveler’s checks are not accepted in most of the communities you are likely to visit. Some motels will not even accept credit cards (or may charge more for credit card use). We recommend that you bring cash to pay for your motel, or send a check to Proyecto Amistad for the estimated amount. We can turn your check into cash for you upon your arrival. That way you do not have to travel with so much cash “on you.”

Meals - All churches provide at least one meal a day to your team free of charge either breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Some churches have kitchen facilities that they are able to make available to you so you can prepare the rest of your own meals. Appliances and utensils vary from place to place so be sure to contact the US office about what is available at the church you will be visiting. Most churches have groups, like the women’s society or youth, who are willing to prepare additional meals for your team at a cost. Each church sets its own prices, but they are currently between **\$3.00 and \$6.00 dollars a meal/person**. The other option is to eat “out.” We do not recommend purchasing food from street vendors. But, restaurant food is safe and if your team decides to eat in a local restaurant, Amistad staff or local church members will accompany you or make suggestions as to good places to dine, based on your team’s budget and food preferences. Meals at a taco “joint” or small establishment will generally cost you about **\$5.00** per person. A “sit-down” restaurant will cost between **\$8.00 and \$10.00** per person. NOTE: PLEASE, do not purchase or drink alcohol while in Mexico at restaurants and all other places. To do so undermines the witness of Mexican Christians who abstain from alcohol in a society that suffers immensely from alcohol abuse.

Only purified water and ice are served in restaurants so it is safe. Purified water and ice are available in Mexico for about **\$1.80**/bag or 5 gallon jug. Speak to someone from the ministry about obtaining an empty returnable jug to avoid paying a deposit.

Mission Team Security

Much has been said about the dangers of traveling in Mexico. You may have seen the numerous television programs discussing drug traffic violence, kidnappings, thievery, etc. The wording of the liability release form may also alarm you. We assure you that few of the mentioned dangers are real risks in the cities you will visit. Though our communities are not immune to drug-traffic violence, they are not daily events.

Nevertheless, we remind you that you are NOT in your hometowns and as an American you might be singled out as a target for theft since it is generally assumed that Americans are wealthy. Amistad staff and local church hosts will take special precautions to assure your safety while in Mexico and team member adherence to instructions is expected. Staying with your brothers and sisters of the local church will GREATLY increase your security. Here are a few actions you can take to avoid being a victim and stay safe in Mexico:

1. Be aware of your surroundings and keep an eye on personal possessions.
2. Do not carry large sums of money.
3. Personal items are safe in the motels, but do not leave valuables (money, passports, cameras, etc) behind unless they are locked in your suitcase.
4. Keep motel rooms and vehicles locked at all times.
5. If you leave valuables in your vehicles, make sure they are not visible to anyone who might look through the windows as they walk by.
6. If you decide to take a walk, please go in a group of at least three and inform a team leader of your intentions.
7. Team members are asked not to go anywhere alone and to never go walking at night unless accompanied by a member of the local church or the Amistad staff.
8. For security and the Christian witness in Mexico, do not purchase or drink alcohol of any kind while in Mexico.
9. Avoid discussing your group's itinerary or housing location with strangers.
10. Be where you are expected to be when you are expected to be there.
11. Don't eat food served on the street (especially popsicles) and don't drink tap water or use it to brush your teeth.
12. Make sure you are current on your tetanus booster. Hepatitis A, Tuberculosis and typhoid fever are somewhat common in our communities, but the likelihood of your exposure is minimal. These vaccines are not necessary for your visit to the border.
13. Use sunscreen and hats to protect yourself from the sun. DO NOT "sunbathe."

Spiritual Growth Through Cross-Cultural Experience

As you begin to prepare for your mission experience in Mexico, please do not neglect the spiritual, emotional, and team-building needs of the participants. You may find the **Resources** page of this manual. Here, are a few suggestions.

Before You Come:

1. Spend time in prayer and Bible study as individuals and as a team, seeking guidance and direction from the Lord as you prepare to minister in Mexico.
2. Provide the team with as much information as possible about Mexico, the Mexican Presbyterian Church, Proyecto Amistad, and their participation in the ministry. You may even provide copies of this manual to each of them. Invite someone in to teach you basic Spanish.
3. Take time to discuss expectations, hopes, and fears as a group and make the necessary preparations for your service project.
4. Appoint team music and devotional leaders for the trip to make sure this aspect of your trip is not neglected. You might even appoint a team photographer so not everyone has to drag a camera around with them.

While You Are Here:

1. Set aside time for morning prayer and devotions as well as evening reflections. If you would like Amistad personnel to lead your team in either of the above, please indicate so on the **Team Registration Form**. You will find a few suggestions for devotionals in this manual.
2. Encourage team members to keep a journal in which they record their thoughts, feelings, and experiences.
3. Take advantage of all opportunities to hear the testimonies of members of the local church and Amistad staff and share your own. Seek out opportunities to fellowship with the Mexican people.
4. Participate actively in all aspects of the mission experience (service, educational, fellowship and worship).

When You Return Home:

1. Share your mission experience with your congregation during a worship service or special gathering.
2. Encourage team members to reflect upon their experience in Mexico.
3. Explore ways your team and church may continue the relationship with Proyecto Amistad and the Presbyterian congregations of Mexico. This may include correspondence by internet or mail, sharing photographs, planning future visits, and maybe financially supporting the Amistad ministry, but especially by praying for your new friends.
4. Consider other ways you and your Mexican friends can minister together. Invite them to make a mission trip to your community. Invite them to join you on a mission trip to third location/country. The possibilities are endless! Be creative!

Devotional Suggestions

Amistad staff and local church leaders are available to lead your team in daily devotions or reflections if you so desire. However, we wish to respect the plans of team leaders and pastors.

We recommend both morning and evening devotional times. And don't forget the music! Amistad has song sheets and chords for popular praise songs in English and Spanish which will be available for your use. But, feel free to bring your own, along with a music leader and instrument of choice. We also suggest that team members spend time journaling every day.

A Few Suggested Themes of Study:

1). **New Life in Christ.** How do we live the Christian life in our culture/context? How do Mexican Christians live this new life? What did Jesus teach us about our relationship with the "world"? What was the experience of the early Church? How has Christ transformed your life?

Texts: Romans 12, 1 John 2:15-17, John 4, Galatians 2:20, 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 16:33, Ephesians 4:17-32, Ephesians 5, 1 Peter, James, Matt. 10:16, Acts 17:28, Titus 3

2). **The Ministry of Jesus Christ as a Model for Our Work in Mission.** Jesus Christ providing for specific needs, always bringing spiritual healing, teaching, proclamation of the Kingdom, His servanthood, sacrifice, death and resurrection.

Texts: Choose from any Gospel text and many of the Prophets who describe the ministry of the coming Messiah. John 13-17 and the Books of Acts also discuss the ongoing of God through the disciples/body of Christ.

3). **The Cross-Cultural Ministry of Christ and the Apostles: A Model for Mission.** Crossing of Borders (physical, cultural, spiritual).

Texts: Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 19:1-9, John 1 and 3, Acts 2:1-13, Acts 8:26-40, Acts 10, 11, and 15.

4). **The Unity of the Body of Christ.** Who makes up this Body? What unites us? How should we live together? How are we called to minister to and with one another? Texts: Acts 2:42-47, Teachings of Jesus in Gospels, 1Corinthians 12, 2 Corinthians 8, Galatians 6, Ephesians 2,4,5,6, Philipians 2, 3, Philemon.

5). **God's Mission in the World and Our Part in It.** What is God doing? What is His mission? What part do we play? Learning to step back and see His hand in our lives and in the world. Texts: Study God's work in the world from Creation, the Fall, Destruction by flood, Covenant with Abraham, Covenant with Israel, Ministry of Christ, Early Church, through modern history and into our present context.

Tips from the Experts:
What Former Mission Team Leaders Suggest

- “READ THE MANUAL!”
- “Get everyone involved by assigning coordinators for different activities such as devotional leader, musician (song leader), food coordinator, historian, photographer, etc.”
- “Make copies of the Mission Team Manual for each member of the team and ask them to read it! Discuss it with them at team preparation meetings.”
- “Learn as much Spanish as you can BEFORE you come.”
- “Think of simple ways to describe yourself, family, your church, and what you do to your Mexican brothers and sisters—several simple sentences which could be translated into Spanish by someone for you. Then memorize your sentences, master them on 3 by 5 cards (in Spanish only).”
- Bring photos of your family to show your brothers and sisters in Mexico!
- “Make sure you have one member who speaks Spanish. Preferably have several or all team members learn some Spanish.”
- “Be flexible. Schedules are merely suggestions so chill out.”
- “Bring loose fitting clothing, it’s more versatile.”
- “Make sure you have extra cash.” [Editor’s Note: small bills are best]
- “Have several training sessions, getting to know other team members, having a Mexican national visit, having Spanish lessons.”
- “Practice more Spanish, leave as much “cultural baggage” behind as possible. Instead of games, fill your time up with fellowship and talking with people here.”
- “Drink lots of water.” [not sodas]
- “Rest when you need to. It really does get hot!” [during the summer]
- “Try to learn a little Spanish!”

Other Helpful Tips

Be flexible! Things do not always work out the way we would expect them to. Materials are not always delivered “on time”. Things are done differently in Mexico than in the U.S.

Remember, this is a cultural experience! When you find yourself becoming frustrated, relax, go with the flow, try to understand the situation through Mexican eyes, and contemplate what God may be teaching you.

Beware of the sun and the heat. It really does get to be 115 degrees here during the summer and the sun is very harmful. Please make sure to use sunscreen, wear a hat and drink plenty of H₂O. Frequent breaks are a sign of intelligence and a desire to care for the temple of the Holy Spirit, your body.

Use your Spanish! Don't be shy about trying out your Spanish, no matter how rusty it is. The locals will appreciate your attempt and be more likely to strike up a conversation with you.

Don't Flush the TP! Mexican plumbing and water pressure are not able to handle flushed paper products. Toilets will clog very quickly. Please use the trashcans for toilet paper and feminine hygiene items.

Keep it Clean! If you are staying at one of the churches, remember that other people from the community or church may be using the facilities as well. Please keep restrooms and common areas clean and free of clutter.

Don't Get Caught Penniless! Very few places in Mexico accept traveler's checks. Cash them before crossing the border or plan to use cash. US dollars are accepted in border towns, but very few merchants will have change for bills larger than \$5.00. In the interior, you will want to exchange your money as soon as you arrive. Ask the Director the best way.

Be aware of cultural differences: Young women, if a male in Mexico whistles or calls out to you, this is called a piropo. The appropriate response is to ignore him. If you respond, you are asking for greater attention (and the responsibilities that go with it). Please know that many of the children you will have contact with live in fairly violent environments. Please do not foster this by rough-housing with the kids. It encourages them to disrespect their elders and guests, something that is very disconcerting to the church. Also, be aware that what may be a game to you (like keeping candy from kids) may be observed as racist treatment (treating them like dogs). Finally, remember that Presbyterians in Mexico do not use crosses as a symbol of the Christian church and they do not smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, or play cards. Keep this in mind as you represent your church AND theirs.

Resources

Missions

We strongly suggest your team spend time reading and studying the Word of God; particularly seeking insight into God's mission in the lives of the people of Bible times and how that mission continues in our day, in your context in the US and in the context of the Mexican people. Bible study suggestions are included in this manual (see **Devotional Suggestions**). The following books may also help prepare you and your team for its mission experience. We highly recommend the books marked with an asterisk.

Missiology, Anthropology, Mission Partnerships

A Word in Season: Perspectives on Christian World Missions by Lesslie Newbigin. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, 1994.

*Beyond Charity by John M. Perkins. Baker Books, 1993.

*Bonding and the Missionary Task/Language Learning is Ministry by Thomas and Elizabeth Brewster. Lingua House, 1982/1984.

*Cross-Cultural Conflict by Duane Elmer. Inter-Varsity Press, 1993.

Eternity in their Hearts by Don Richardson. Regal Books, 1981.

Also by Don Richardson: Peace Child and Lords of the Earth.

Gracias: A Latin American Journal by Henri Nouwen. Orbis Books, 1993

In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership by Henri Nouwen. Crossroad Publishing Company, 1989.

*Making your Partnership Work by Daniel Rickett. Partners International Winepress Publishing, 2002. See PI's website for more resources:

www.partnersintl.org

*Ministering Cross-culturally: An Incarnation Model for Personal Relationship by Sherwood G. Lingenfelter and Marvin K. Mayers. Baker Books, 1986.

*Mission in the Third Millennium by Stan Guthrie. Paternoster Press, 2002.

*Missions and Money: Affluence as a Western Missionary Problem by Jonathan Bonk. Orbis Books, 1999.

Teaching Mission in a Global Context edited by Patricia Lloyd-Sidle and Bonnie Sue Lewis. Available through Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (800-227-2827 or pcusa.org/ppc).

Globalization and Economics

*The Lexus and the Olive Tree by Thomas Friedman. Anchor Books, 2000.

*Promises not Kept: The Betrayal of Social Change in the Third World by John Isbister. Kumarian Press, 2001.

*Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions by Craig L. Blomberg. Intervarsity Press, 1999.

The Biblical Jubilee and the Struggle for Life by Ross and Gloria Kinsler. Orbis Books, 1999.

Voices from Korea, USA, and Brazil: The Reformed Faith and the Global Economy. Available through PDS (1-800-524-2612- order#74-290-01-001).

Immigration

*Border Games: Policing the US-Mexico Divide by Peter Andreas, Cornell University Press, 2000.

*Operation Gatekeeper: The Rise of the 'Illegal Alien' and the Making of the US-Mexico Boundary by Joseph Nevins, Routledge, 2002.

Mission Team Materials

The website for Partners International has very good international Christian partnership resources. www.partnersintl.org

Vacations with a Purpose by Chris Eaton and Kim Hurst. David C. Cook Publishing, 1993.

The Essential Guide to the Short Term Mission Trip by David C. Forward. Moody Press, 1998.

*When God's People Travel Together. Series of Mission Trip Materials published by the Presbyterian Church USA. To order, call Presbyterian Distribution Service at 1-800-524-2612 or find them at www.pcusa.org

*A Trip Leader's Planning Manual PDS#70-270-99-009

*Bible Studies for Mission PDS#74-400-99-083

Reflecting and Acting on Mission Trip Experiences PDS#70-270-99-022

Mission Trip Models for Discipling Participants PDS#74-400-00-001

*People, Places, and Partnerships: A Workbook for Your Mission Trip Abroad PDS#74-400-96-049

Reaching Out to You: An Orientation Guide for Visitors to the United States PDS#74-400-98-066

Presbyterian Border Ministry Mission Team Guide and videos may be obtained by contacting the US Office of Presbyterian Border Ministry in San Antonio, TX: 210-930-9230.

Spanish Language

Spanish for Mission Trips by Carol Schwarz. Mission Travel and Translation. Tel. 956-565-3646. Entire Spanish language program with cassettes designed for Christian mission teams. We also recommend you invite a local Spanish speaker to a group meeting that s/he could teach your team some basic Spanish.

Mexico and the Border

Distant Neighbors by Alan Riding. Harper and Row, 1990.

Fire and Blood: A History of Mexico by TR Fehrenbach. Macmillan, 1973.

Foreigners in their Native Land: Historical Roots of the Mexican Americans by David Weber, et.al. University of New Mexico Press, 1973.
Mexico: A Country Guide by Tom Barry. Inter-Hemispheric Education Resources, 1992.

Twenty Years among the Mexicans by Melinda Rankin.

Mission to Mexico by Alice J. McClelland. Board of World Mission, Presbyterian Church US, 1960.

I Heard the Donkeys Bray: Thirty Years on the Mission Field by Marguerite Boyce. Providence House Publishers, 1992.

Important Addresses and Telephone Numbers

Proyecto Amistad	Nuevo Laredo Director's Cel. 011-52-1-(867) 129-2052 Director's home 011-521-(867)-736-6121 Huastcas Coordinator's home 011-52-558-421-7747 Huasteca Coordinator's Cel. 011-521-483-103-8155
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Mailing and Email addresses:

Proyecto Amistad
P.O. Box 17866
San Antonio, TX 78217-0866
proyectoamistad@gmail.com

Roberto Medina
P.O. Box 272
Laredo TX. 78042
amistadmedina@hotmail.com

Packing List

Note that this is a general list. Please consult Amistad personnel as to any specific needs based on your destination.

Individuals Should Bring:

- Your passport.
- Parental Consent Form if you are a minor traveling without parents/guardians.
- Your Bible
- Spanish-English Dictionary
- Notebook or journal book and something to write with
- Camera
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen, hat and sunglasses
- Bug repellent
- Depending on where you stay, a sleeping bag, or sheets and pillow case, etc.
- Wash cloth if desired (motels in Mexico do not provide them)
- Personal toiletry items
- Any medications you are taking. If medications will return to the US with you, make sure you bring the meds in their original prescription bottles or with a copy of the prescription. This is required for bringing medications into the US.
- Work gloves
- Work shoes (tennis shoes or boots)
- Swimming suit if coming during the summer (women, one piece only, no bikinis, please)
- Women will need a skirt or dress for Sunday worship services (preference). Men will need long pants for the same.
- Comfortable clothing for construction. We recommend long pants even during the summertime since they protect you from the sun.
- Clothing for afternoon tours and educational/evangelism activities. Please, dress modestly.
- If you would like to bring your own tools to work with, make sure to label them.

Teams Should Bring:

- A few flashlights
- Instant hand wash
- A roll or two of paper towels and toilet paper to carry with you in the vehicles (more if you are staying at the church or Amistad facilities, you can buy here)
- First aid kit

Please, Do Not Bring:

Valuables, expensive jewelry (wedding rings and watches are safe), electronic equipment (ie. computers, I-pods, etc. if not necessary), abbreviated clothing (short shorts, mini-skirts, biking or exercise shorts, cut-off shorts, halter, spaghetti strap, tube or “belly-baring” tops).

Mission Participant Information Form

(Please return this form at least ONE MONTH before your trip)

Participant Name: _____ Birth date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: ___ Zip Code: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency Contacts (2) Names and Phone Numbers:

(1) _____

(2) _____

Medical Insurance Carrier: _____

Policy/ID Number: _____ *Please bring your medical card with you.*

Are you allergic to or intolerant of anything (including food or medications)?

Yes No If yes, please explain:

Are there any other medical or diet issues the leaders or Amistad staff should

know about? Yes No If yes, please explain:

Have you ever participated in an international mission trip? Yes No

If yes, when and where? _____

Have you ever felt the Lord calling you to work in the international mission field
for a longer period of time? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Would you like to be placed on Amistad's mailing list and receive our
newsletter? Yes No

Would you be interested in receiving a periodic prayer update from Amistad via
email?

Yes No If yes, make sure you clearly printed your email address above.

**Hold Harmless, Waiver of Liability,
and Emergency Medical Care Authorization**

Proyecto Amistad, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in Texas, a ministry in Mexico in Partnership with Noreste, and Huastecas Presbytery is hosting a mission trip by _____ (church name, city, state)

on _____ (trip dates). I,

_____ (participant name) of

_____ (participant address, city, state),

in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the Amistad ministry, and in consideration of other obligations incurred, hereby agree as follows:

1. I fully understand that I may be traveling or staying in areas of the world which may have unstable political, economic and security situations where acts of war, potential danger from lack of control over local population, terrorism or violence could occur at any time.
2. I fully understand that I may encounter difficult climates and living conditions; that risks are present concerning means of travel, food, water, diseases, pests and poor sanitation and other health related situations. Medical or emergency medical treatment may be inadequate or not available.
3. I accept and assume all responsibility for my personal actions and any and all risks of property damage or personal injury which occur during or result from my participation, including potential injury while working.
4. With the above in mind, I fully understand and agree that Proyecto Amistad, its board of directors, staff and volunteers shall not be responsible or liable in any way for any accident, loss, death, injury or damage to myself or my property, in connection with the mission experience or any portion of the mission experience even if said injury or action is due to the alleged negligence of Proyecto Amistad, Inc. Further, I do hereby agree to indemnify and hold Proyecto Amistad harmless against and from any and all liabilities, damages, claims, suits, judgments and associated costs and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees) of whatsoever kind in connection with the mission experience or any portions of the mission experience. Further, I make this agreement on behalf of my heirs, agents, fiduciaries, successors and assigns. I waive, knowingly and voluntarily, each and every claim or right of action I have now or may have in the future against Proyecto Amistad, Inc. related to the mission experience, even if any such claim or right of action is caused by Amistad's alleged negligence.
5. I hereby state that I am in good health and have all medications necessary to treat any allergic or chronic conditions, and I am able to administer such medications without assistance. If at any time during the mission experience I need emergency medical care and am not able to give consent because of my physical or mental condition, I authorize emergency medical care decisions to be made on my behalf, and I specifically release Proyecto Amistad, in making those emergency medical care decisions, from any and all liability associated with said decisions, even if injury or death is the result of Proyecto Amistad's alleged negligence.
6. This document does not release Proyecto Amistad from gross negligence.
7. I have read carefully, agree to, and intend to be legally bound by all terms of this hold harmless, waiver of liability, and emergency medical care authorization.

Signature of Participant

Witness

Printed Name

Signature of Parent or Guardian is also required if participant is under 18 years of age.

Date: _____

CONSENTIMIENTO DE LOS PADRES PARA MENOR DE EDAD

Parental Consent for Minor

(one form for each participant under 18 years of age not accompanied by both legal parents/guardians; form must signed by both/all parents/guardians and must be notarized)

Nosotros, los infrascritos, por este medio damos nuestro permiso para mi/nuestro hijo

_____ a viajar a _____, México, con los
(name of child) (city and state to be visited)
siguientes acompañantes como parte de un equipo de misión que visitará a la Iglesia

Presbiteriana _____ de _____, Mexico del ____ al ____ de
(name of Church) (city and state) (dates of the trip)
_____, _____.
(month) (year)

Los acompañantes: _____
(Names of chaperones)

Firmado por: _____ Fecha: _____
(signed by parent or guardian) (date)

Firmado por: _____ Fecha: _____
(signed by parent or guardian) (date)

English translation of above form: We, the undersigned by this form give our permission for mi/ our son/daughter (name) to travel to _____, Mexico with the following chaperones, as part of a mission team that will visit _____ Presbyterian Church of _____, Mexico, from _____ to _____, _____.
(date) (date) (year)

THIS SPACE FOR NOTARIZATION (notarization required):

Sworn before me this _____ day of _____, 200__.

State of _____, County of _____

Notary Public Signature: _____

My term expires: _____

MEALS

We would like the local congregation to prepare _____ (number) of meals for our team in addition to the one meal a day already provided.

Note any other meal plans here (prepare own, eat in restaurant, etc.):

Please note any team member food allergies/intolerances:

OTHER INFORMATION

Please describe your team. Are they youth? Adults? Do they study? Work? What kind of work do they do? What are their gifts and talents?

Why did your team choose to participate in the Amistad ministry?

Please describe what your team hopes to share with its Mexican brothers and sisters.

Please describe what your team hopes to receive from its Mexican brothers and sisters.

Will you be preparing your team’s daily devotions/reflections or would you like Amistad staff and/or local church leaders to do so?

Check enclosed for (any that apply) Team deposit: _____

Project funds: _____

Food: _____

Housing: _____

Other: _____

TOTAL: _____

Please enclose Participant Information Forms and Liability Waivers/ Medical Care Authorizations for all team members along with this Team Registration Form at least ONE MONTH before your trip.

Additional Resources

In summary, as we seek to minister to and with our Mexican brothers and sisters, we need to be aware of our differences and seek to minister in culturally appropriate ways. If we desire to make Christ known to them or otherwise make a positive impact on their lives, we will do so only if our behavior is culturally appropriate. **Having said this, know that you have more in common with your brothers and sisters than you have different.** Also, your brothers and sisters are also being taught about American culture. Some of them are quite accustomed to working with Americans, so you will be understood and forgiven for any mistakes you make. It is important, however, to try. If ministering to the people of Mexico is your concern, you will, as the Apostle Paul did.

“Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.” 1 Corinthians 9:19-22

Please speak with a staff person before offering any gifts, including gifts to the local church.