



CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL PROJECT PROPOSAL – CASAS POR CRISTO June 15 - 21, 2008

LOCATION: JUAREZ, MEXICO

Ciudad Juárez is located in the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua on the Rio Grande. It is Mexico's largest border city with the United States and is connected by bridge to El Paso, Texas. The city was founded in the 17th century and was later renamed in honor of the Mexican president Benito Pablo Juárez. The population of Juárez is approximately 800,000.

In Juárez, the most prominent problem is the lack of decent and affordable housing with an estimated 300,000 families in need of a home. Families who come to Juarez first build their houses by using heavy cardboard, scrap lumber and other discarded materials. Over a period of two to three years, families may be able to scrape together enough money to build a home. It takes about a day's wages to purchase a dozen cement blocks and almost all of four months wages to build a 12' x 12' home.

Mexicans are generally warm and friendly. They are known for their carefree attitude and capacity to enjoy life. Life in Mexico revolves around the family, which takes priority above everything else.

PROJECT: Casas Por Cristo – housing construction

The team will be building an 11' x 22', 2-room home for a family. The project will include starting from bare ground to lay cement, framing walls, raising and decking the roof, installing the electricity, applying stucco to the outside walls and dry-walling and insulating the ceiling.

Project donation: The cost of the materials for this building project is approximately \$4,300. This cost is divided evenly among the team members and included in the cost of the trip.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

For the last two years the Christ Church teams have conducted a health fair. We hope to do so again this year. We also anticipate working again this year with Samuel Martinez to participate in worship services at his church. Time should permit a one-day R&R and shopping on the last day of the trip.

TEAM MEMBERS:

The team will consist of adults and teens (age 15 or over). Teens age 17 and under will need consent from both parents to participate in the trip even if the parent(s) participates in the trip.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Housing for the team will be at the host church. Information will be provided at team meetings as to bedding and supplies each team member will need to take. Groceries will be purchased in El Paso or in Juarez upon arrival. The team will be responsible for breakfast which generally consists of cereals, breakfast bars, burritos, fruit, etc. We typically work with Samuel Martinez to provide someone to cook a substantial meal at the end of the work day. Snacks and sandwiches will be available in the evening.

SHOTS/MEDICATIONS:

Tetanus is required as a precaution so make sure you are up-to-date. Decisions regarding the use of medication (such as for malaria) and taking shots are up to the individual team member. We do suggest, however, that you obtain and evaluate the recommendations of your health department and the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov) and make decisions that will give you comfort while on the trip. Another good source of information for travel health issues is www.tripprep.com.

TEAM TRAINING:

Team members should plan to attend four to five team meetings. The meetings and will consist of discussions regarding travel in a foreign country, packing lists, plans for project activities, preparation for participation in the church services we will attend, fund raising, etc. It is very important that each team member make a commitment to attend these meetings.

COST:

The approximate cost* of this trip is \$1,225 per person. This includes round-trip airfare from Atlanta to El Paso; ground transportation; meals (except for travel days); lodging; insurance; team t-shirts; and project fund contribution. Funds for shopping and sightseeing are the responsibility of the individual team members.

* **NOTE:** Cost is based on estimated airfare and may have to be adjusted due to changes in airfare prior to ticketing. Cost is also based on participation of 12 individuals and may vary with a change in the level of participation. Variations could increase or decrease the cost of the mission.