

Misión Mazahua Trip 2012

Thursday, June 21 – Thursday, June 28, 2012

August 10, 2011

This letter is to announce, at the invitation of Rev. Norberto and Lisa Cortes, the formation of a team to go to Misión Mazahua, Mexico (in the Municipality of San Felipe del Progreso in the State of Mexico) on a short-term mission June 21-June 28, 2012.

Our short-term mission trips to Misión Mazahua have been great experiences and we want to invite you to come along and help us on the next one. If you function well in a team environment, can take responsibility for yourself, and sense God is calling you to do this, we welcome you to apply. We are looking for 30-35 participants. Our teams have been comprised of Christians of many denominations. Willingness to serve where needed and personal responsibility are the most desired attributes we desire in potential team members. We welcome doctors and nurses and physical therapists but also handy people and willing helpers. If you have special skills you may or may not be able to use them – it depends on materials, mission priorities, tools, equipment and funds. Ability to speak Spanish is helpful but not required. You will need your minister's endorsement, a positive and flexible attitude, and a passport.

We encourage you to read The September 2011 issue of *The Congregationalist* which has an article that explains more about the mission and captures part of the experiences of our June 2011 mission trip. It will be available [after Sept. 6] at www.congegationalist.org.

Let us introduce our team leaders. I am **Jack Brown**, the minister of the Olivet Congregational Church, Olivet, Michigan. This will be my 14th trip to Misión Mazahua. I will attend to spiritual emphasis, recruitment, registration, fund raising, orientation, cultural immersion experiences and debriefing.

Jim Weyand, member of the Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia, Michigan, and also a veteran short-term mission team leader to Misión Mazahua (13 trips so far) and a project foreman, Jim will be one Co-leader. Jim is president of a computer company in Southfield, Michigan. Jim is in charge of our communications while in Mexico.

Frank Palacio will be the other of our team's foremen and Co-leaders. Frank has lead five teams and chaperoned 3 others that visited Misión Mazahua. Frank is retired from General Motors, is Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Olivet Congregational Church, a high school coach, and is active in support of benevolent programs and an exceptional Mexican chef. Frank and Jim will go down before the team arrives to coordinate and facilitate our service projects and logistics.

Pagel Hoyer (a member of an Evangelical and Reformed Church in Potter, Wisconsin) will also be part of our leadership team. Jean has been on 14 short-term missions to Misión Mazahua (driving down 7 times with donations) and serves our teams as our "Dean of Women" as well

as receiving, sorting, inventorying and distributing our donations and taking care of securing, for those who desire it, our documents and valuables.

We understand that the foremost two issues for prospective participants will be considerations safety and cost.

Security: “Isn’t Mexico dangerous?”

News media reports give the impression that there is open warfare on every street corner. However, our experience is that visiting Mexico is like visiting anywhere else---most places are fine. We cannot absolutely guarantee that nothing bad will happen, but we will take reasonable and prudent measures to avoid problems, including:

- 1) Monitoring US government and other travel web sites regarding travel in Mexico
- 2) Regular communications with our hosts Norberto and Lisa Cortes
- 3) Sending Frank and Jim to Mission Mazahua several days before the main group to, among other things, assess the security situation

If we believe your personal safety is at significant risk, we will cancel the trip—even up to the very last minute. However, in all of our collective experience we have never had a security-related problem.

Cost. \$375 participation fee. Airfare is not included in this fee. Normally, airfare from northern U.S. cities is about \$400-\$600. This participation fee covers room and board, ground transportation, meals in transit from the airport in Mexico City and back, purified water, administration costs, tips and fees (everything but snack food, gifts/souvenirs, church offering and probable dinner/dessert on our own Sunday evening). We need to raise funds for our work projects and invite you and your church to help us out with this. **[Due to the prospect of a delayed flight we also ask that you have an extra \$100 or a credit card to cover your hotel room in Mexico City if your flight is delayed and we need to bring you out to the Mission the next day.]**

Our design is to do what we can to make this a very positive experience. We want you to come back enthused about missions and satisfied with your experience. We hope many of you will want to return and bring family and/or friends with you. We further hope that some of you will determine to lead groups of your own; we will help you in this in any way we can.

For more detailed and specific information and conditions of participation, please contact us at the following address:

Jack Brown

Olivet Congregational Church, Box 368, 125 College St., Olivet, MI 49076

Church: (269) 749 2631 Fax: (269) 749 9028 Home: (269) 749 4171

pilgrim_pastor@hotmail.com

A short-term mission trip can be a wonderful experience. It can also be a negative and disappointing one. We have found ways that have proven to be consistently positive. Prayerfully consider if you are willing to commit to spend a week serving in the following way. If you fully and completely agree with these objectives and requirements, you are encouraged to apply.

OUR GOALS AND ROLE

Objectives.

- To assist, at the invitation of Pastor Norberto and Lisa Cortes (founders and directors of Mission Mazahua), for a week (or longer if you wish to stay on with a contribution for your extra room and) helping with facilities improvement, community development, ongoing mission projects and programs. Our assistance and support work frees the mission team to do the work they are particularly skilled to do by virtue of their contacts, language, cultural understanding and carefully developed and fostered relationships.
- To be faithful to Jesus' Great Commandment to love people as He loved us and His Great Commission to go into all the world in His Name. To fulfill His charge to be His witnesses "*in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the world.*" [Acts 1:8] To respond to Jesus' message of Matthew 25:31 ff. "*Inasmuch as you do these things to the least of My brothers, so you do unto Me.*"
- To share with Mexican Christians the joy of faith, service and worship.
- To grow in understanding of, appreciation for, involvement in and commitment to Christian mission work by personal involvement in a "wholistic Christian Mission". Lisa and Norberto want to emphasize that they are looking for helpers who are committed to missions not only during our visit but after we return as well; people who will keep involved in Christ's service, not people looking for a "feel good" experience.
- To support Misión Mazahua with our faith, hearts, hands and heads. We are not going to tell them how to do their business; we are going to assist them to do what God has called them to do.

Please note: The following information needs to be seriously considered by potential team-members and parents of teenaged applicants. There are several things that need to be addressed before you apply. The high altitude of the mission, the difference in culture and social standards, the change of diet, the potential for stomach distress, the fact that you will be working with team members with perhaps differences of theological opinion, the possibility of working with handicapped folks are all important issues to process before you apply. We have found the area where we serve to be very safe.

Cross-cultural Mission Trip. This is clearly a mission trip not a vacation. However, we will be enjoying a different culture, cuisine and natural environment. We will experience gracious hospitality and enjoy scenic, historic surroundings and have interesting cross-cultural experiences. We will join in Mexican-Christian worship. We may have some time to experience Mexico City and the vicinity around Mission Mazahua. However, you will need to hold to the purpose and emphasis of a mission trip.

Preparation. Pastor Norberto Cortes expects us to come well prepared mentally and spiritually, to serve as mission helpers. A condition of acceptance is to obtain and read a copy of *The Volunteer Mission Experience* available for \$4.00 from the NACCC office: (800) 262-1620. [They can bill you.] He asks that we also read at least one of these books: *Gates of Splendor*, by Elizabeth Eliot, *Peace Child*, by Don Richardson, or *In His Steps*, by Charles Sheldon (the book from which comes the question “What would Jesus do?” WWJD?). There is an updated version of *In His Steps* available, edited by James S. Bell, Jr.

Compliance. We are representatives of Jesus Christ and of *Misión Mazahua* all the while we are in Mexico. We follow their standards, directions and advice. Smoking or drinking compromise their standards; please do not do either. Do not bring, purchase or use alcohol or illegal or illicit drugs during our week of ministry. [OTC pain relievers and anti-diarheal meds are acceptable.] Behavior and attitudes that honor Christ will reflect well on the Mission and on our team. Compromising the Mission’s standards or insubordination to the Mission’s directives may result in dismissal from the Mission and rooming and boarding away from the mission (minors with chaperone) at participant’s expense until the team departs from Mexico.

Team Approach. Cooperation is essential in order for everyone to have the best experience. If you can commit to the requirements above for the entire week, accept group decisions and counsel of mission leaders, take directions, endeavor to finish given assignments, you are very welcome to apply.

Special Duties and Challenges. We will all need to take care of our personal space. Things will go very smoothly if everyone does their part and a little more. We are going to serve; look for opportunities to serve. There may be a Christian Adult, Youth or Children’s Camp in session part of the time we are there. We need to respect their use of the Hacienda and their schedule, programs and privacy. The Mission makes the major part of their income from rentals for camps so we can help the Mission by assisting, where requested and appropriate, to make the camp go well. If there is a camp in session the kitchen staff has an enormous responsibility preparing meals and we shall assist them by preparing before and cleaning up after meals.

LIVING CONDITIONS

Language. Ability to speak Spanish is not required but is helpful. Try to learn some basic phrases and words. Mexicans are tolerant of our attempts to speak Spanish. If you know or can learn any Christian songs or choruses in Spanish be prepared to teach them to the rest of us so we can share our faith in song if and when we are given an opportunity, and we usually are asked.

Accommodations. We will sleep in the apartments that have been rehabilitated at the Mission, dormitory style. (We can usually accommodate couples together.) The nights will be very cool (40’s F.), rooms are unheated. Sheets, blankets (there are extras for the asking) and pillows will be supplied (sleeping bags not recommended). They love for us to bring extra sheets, pillowcases, towels to leave for their needs.

Health.

We are likely to have an American doctor and/or nurse with us as part of our team.

Medications: Tetanus shots should be up to date. Hepatitis shots are recommended by some travel-wise people; ask your doctor. Bring anti-diarrhea medicine.

Water: Drink only purified water or beverages (except at the Hacienda where beverages served with meals are fine). We will provide you with a plastic bottle of purified bottled on the bus when you arrive which you will keep with you all week (though we will have some spares, please mark your own bottle when you receive it). There will be large jugs of extra water from which you can refill in the Comedor/Dining Hall. It is wise to forgo ice. Do not rinse your toothbrush in tap water.

Altitude: The high altitude in which we will be traveling, living and working, 8,600 - 9,000 feet, can be a challenge. We will go even higher crossing the mountains to get to the Mission. Consume a lot of fluids throughout the week; this counteracts the effects of altitude sickness. Do not press too hard working or walking. Symptoms are light-headedness, slight dizziness, headache, shortness of breath, passing out (in our 16 years of experience it has only happened twice - to individuals who skipped breakfast).

Sun/Rain: The sun shines intensely when it is out; the air is thin; sun fever comes easily. Long sleeves, sunscreen and head covering [hats/scarves] (ears and noses need to be covered). During the month of June rain is likely each afternoon and some mornings. Bring a poncho/umbrella. With the rain comes power outages, water-pump outages and communication equipment outages. This all calls for a pioneer spirit and a willingness to live and work in adverse circumstances with a positive attitude.

Meals: Everyone is expected to be at every meal (and at all chapel services). It is where we will make announcements. It is a time where we can serve one another, campers and visitors to the Mission as well as a time of fellowship and support. The meals are good and filling. The food is one of the highlights of the trip. Everything prepared at the Hacienda is fine to eat. Hot sauces are served on the side. Take some snacks in case a meal is delayed. We will use our leftover snacks for our camp farewell fiesta. Away from the Hacienda, fruit that you can peel is fine. We advise against eating anything from vendors or cooked at the market. Youth who choose to stay overnight with a Mazahua family (if it can be arranged; teens need have with them a letter of permission from their parents/guardians to do this) will be instructed on what is okay to eat and drink. If you need to miss a meal, let one of us know so we can make sure we get food or medical attention to you if you need to rest.

Bugs: Other than bees and some flies, there are not many insects where we will be staying; you might want to bring fly-strips for your dorm room.

Insurance: This is your responsibility if you choose to acquire it. Check your own insurance to see if it applies in Mexico. For your information, there is a good, small hospital about 12 miles from the Mission in Atlacomulco de Fabela, Estado de Mexico, the mission has relationships with local doctors and we hope to have a doctor with us.

Hygiene.

Water: Take very short showers. We will over-tax their water supply if we are not careful. Take "Navy showers": 1. Rinse, 2. Turn off water, 3. Wash, 4. Turn water on again and quickly rinse to economize on hot water. We need to be aware that their water storage capacity is limited and supply is quirky and we want to be fair to all of our fellow team members.

Toilet Paper: Toilet paper is not flushed! The toilets, sewer and septic system will not work if we do. Wrap up your used toilet paper in clean toilet paper and dispose of it in the wastebasket. Someone will come around frequently to collect and incinerate it.

Toiletries: Bring your own soap, shampoo, towels, Kleenex (pocket packs), mouthwash (for rinsing your toothbrush), anti-bacterial hand cleanser (important when we eat away from the Hacienda), and "Wet Ones".

Clothing. Only casual and work clothes are needed. It is best to dress in layers due to the temperature variations throughout the day: from 40's at night it warms up to the 70's by mid-day. Consider taking work or regular clothes that you can leave at the mission as a donation after our visit. Girls and women should bring one skirt to wear to church; we need to observe local standards. The culture is more modest than ours and expects girls and women to wear a skirt in some public places: church, on some work projects. Do not wear clothing that is immodest or attracts attention.

Limits. No one should leave the Hacienda grounds or work sites or leave the group on group outings (including the airport) without notification and, for minors, with adult supervision. We encourage people to use the buddy system any time you are in a market, on your own in a village, in Mexico City, at the airport, in any unfamiliar setting away from the mission facilities.

Do Not Bring. Norberto has asked that we not use in public iPods, stereos, radios, CD players, cassette players, with or without headphones as they impede relationship building. Do not bring tobacco, non-prescription drugs (items like Ibuprofen and Imodium are fine if in their original containers) or alcohol. Do not purchase or use them while in Mexico. Do not apply if you cannot live without these for a week.

Typical Schedules: (flexibility to alterations will keep you happy)

8:00	Chapel with the Mazahua Mission staff, campers and other volunteers
9:00	<i>El Desayuno</i> (breakfast) [note, meals are frequently delayed due to limited facilities, staff and/or priority of feeding campers.]
9:30-2:00	Orientation, camp support or work or community development projects
2:00	<i>La Comida</i> (main meal of the day)
3:00-6:00	Afternoon work session
7:00	<i>La Cena</i> (light supper)
8:30-10:00	Special evening programs for fun, learning, or spiritual fellowship: Christian musical group, campfire, fiesta/banquet. We hope to have an evening devotional if nothing else is scheduled.
<u>Thursday-</u>	Arrive and gather the team, walk historic Mexico City center or

	perhaps Toluca on the way to Hacienda, dinner at nice restaurant, drive to Mission (3 hrs from airport).
<u>Friday-</u>	Morning orientation and assignment to work groups. Commence work in afternoon.
<u>Saturday-</u>	Continue work group assignment or change work groups as needed.
<u>Sunday-</u>	Time permitting, if not needed at the Mission, visit local market, followed by church, and a sightseeing tour. (Wear your walking shoes, take money, and bring your umbrella.)
<u>Monday- Tuesday</u>	Assist the Mission or continue assigned work.
<u>Wednesday-</u>	Finish work projects. Clean-up, packing, shopping in local town, mountain trail hike, etc.
<u>Thursday-</u>	Have luggage ready to leave at breakfast. Load bus for 6:00 a.m. departure.

PROJECT SUPPORT AND OTHER MONEY ISSUES

Financial Contributions: Since your \$375 will not cover work-project costs, in order to keep the per person costs low, we need to raise project costs separately and so we invite and welcome financial donations from you who and your church if you are able. Please notify us if you can assist in this way. At the end any money we collect and do not use will be donated to Mission Mazahua.

Financial Aid/Scholarships. If you qualify as a Michigan Congregational Church youth participant please let me know and I will assist you in your application for financial aid (there are some possible partial scholarships for Congregational youth (depending on the number of applicants). Participants from other churches may want to check with your congregation and/or denomination for possible financial support.

Spending Money. You may want money for an offering at church and food at the airport for the Sunday tour. There is a gift shop at the mission for souvenirs (craft items produced at Mission Mazahua: stained-glass, ceramics, sculpted carpets), and we plan to visit a local town market on market day. We have asked past participants about what they recommend and the replies ranged from \$30.00 US to \$300.00 US. You can convert your American money to Mexican pesos for the best rate of exchange in the airport. It is difficult to exchange money near the Hacienda. [Note: The first \$800 worth of items purchased in Mexico is duty free. Duties for balance above the \$800 exemption will be collected by U.S Customs; they recommend receipts.]

TRAVEL

Arrangements. After notification of your acceptance you may make your travel plans. Please find a flight that arrives at **Mexico City-Juarez International Airport** no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 21, 2012 and does not leave before 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 28, 2011. When you get your ticket please notify us of your airline, flight number, and arrival and departure times. In Mexico we will secure ground transportation. [Note: your ticket may be non-refundable and non-transferable.]

Documents, absolutely required.

Leaving the U.S. To get on your airplane in the United States, you must have your **ticket** and a **valid passport**, also a **government issued photo I.D. (Driver's license)**. Minors travelling without a parent or legal guardian should check your air carrier about their requirement for required I.D. beyond the passport.

Entering Mexico. Mexican authorities will not let you enter Mexico without the following: [Official documents will be checked at the airport in Mexico City, prior to coming through customs.]

- You must have a **valid passport** and **government issued photo I.D.**
- Minors, in addition to your passport you must have a **notarized letter signed by both of your parents** or legal guardian(s)(or parent if only one has custody), **authorizing your trip, giving their permission for you to travel to Mexico.** If only one parent is signing you will also need **an additional notarized letter** explaining why, e.g. deceased, only one parent has custody, etc. You will also need to furnish us with a **notarized "permission to treat" form signed by your parents.** [When you are accepted we will send models of these letters and forms that need to be notarized.] These should be signed within a week of travel. We will provide samples.
- A **Tourist Card** will be provided to you by your air carrier (ask for one in English), fill in the space for where you are visiting: Mission Mazahua, San Felipe del Progreso, Estado de Mexico. We will be in Mexico technically and legally as "Tourists".

Leaving Mexico. To exit Mexico you will need your **Tourist Card receipt** (the tear-off portion from the bottom of your Tourist card issued on the flight down and stamped at "Migration Control" and place it with your Passport), **photo I.D., passport and airline ticket.** Keep your documents together in a safe place while in Mexico. There is a lock box where you can keep your valuables. Please make a photo copy of your travel documents and keep them in a separate place.

Luggage. Airlines each have their charges for carry-on and stowed luggage. If you are not going to be charged we encourage you to fill one of your allowed 2 pieces of stowed luggage with items to donate to the mission, or, a higher mission priority, use that space to bring a wheelchair (it will count as one piece of luggage). Possible Donation Items : **[A detailed "Wish List" will be provided in acceptance letters.]** Children's shoes (sturdy, athletic, hiking), children's clothing (good condition if not new) especially for preschool children, T-shirts for teens, musical instruments, stained glass (1 foot by 1 foot squares all colors, or large broken pieces, the latter can often be purchased by the pound at stained glass shops), disposable cameras that can be resold in their gift shop, second hand tools, school supplies (not notebook paper), books for their school library, namely books to help learn English, hygiene items, sample medicines, aspirin or ibuprophen **in original bottles**, vitamins, blackboard with chalk and eraser, white board with markers and eraser, sheets, pillow cases, towels (good condition, if used). Other items that are always appreciated: sewing machines, fabric, sewing supplies, band aids, cream antibiotics, diabetic testing kits and anything related to baby care.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Valuables. Take only what you really need and be sure to carry on valuables with you on the plane, do not put them in checked baggage; valuables can be pilfered too easily. Keep your backpack or your valuables bag in hand in Mexico City; unattended items have been stolen. Cash, cameras, watches and cell phones are particularly vulnerable if not cared for adequately, when traveling and at the Mission. Our bus driver secures and stays with the bus while we tour Mexico City or other stops.

Clergy. You may be invited to preach in chapel for 10-15 minutes. If you are asked to be the main preacher in a Sunday Service you may be expected to preach for 30 minutes. Invitations often come at the last minute; so you might want to prepare ahead. Don't be intimidated by this opportunity; we will give you all the encouragement, suggestions and support we can. Those who have done this have uniformly been blessed by doing so. Translator will be provided.

Report. We ask you to provide us with a written, photographic and/or taped report of your experience after you return. We encourage you to keep a journal to help you capture your thoughts and observations.

Information and Communication. Mission email address is: **mazahua2@gmail.com** (Email generally works.) There is a telephone, the number including international code is: **011-52-712-12-354-62** Do not use it for anything other than a true emergency. A person who speaks only Spanish is likely to answer this phone. This number also serves for fax, but you must call to notify them of incoming fax. It is not unlikely that the telephones (and consequently email) will not work due to frequent outages of service.

North American cell phones often do not work, or work only sporadically in the Mexican system. There is a cell phone that is made especially for international travel . We can get information to you about these if you are interested.

Tourist Guides for Visiting Mexico. An AAA Travel Guide or something equivalent is an excellent resource on what you can and must not bring into Mexico or back into the U.S.

Gifts and Donations. No gifts should be given to the staff on an individual basis with the exception of wrapped candy. We will give a gratuity to the staff from our team at the end of our stay. All contributions and donated goods become the Mission's property and will be distributed at their discretion. Items may be resold at a very modest price in keeping with the Mission's philosophy of restoring and maintaining personal dignity and responsibility.

Chaperones for Youth. We need a ratio of one adult to whom youth will be responsible for every 4 High School youth who come as a group from a church, and if there are boys and girls it is best to have a chaperone of each gender. Middle School aged students will only be accepted if accompanied by a close relative to whom they will be responsible.

Village Overnight Stay. It may be possible for each **youth** participant to spend a night with a Mazahua family, if there are enough host families, in which case the accommodations will be very humble. You will need to bring a signed letter of consent from your parents. If you change your mind after our orientation for this opportunity, there is no problem if you choose not to participate, but you cannot decide to do this at the last minute without a consent form.

Polaroid Cameras, Daily Reporter and/or Videographer. We appreciate a volunteer who will make a video record of our trip and make copies available (each participant to reimburse for costs of copies). We also like to have a “journalist” to make a daily report we can send home with news of our team’s daily progress.

APPLICATION PROCESS

[] You have a **U.S. Passport** valid for June 21-July 28, 2012 (or to the end of your stay in Mexico). Or you will apply for one immediately. **Government issued photo I.D.**

[] Required reading. Your application indicates to us that you have acquired and read the booklet *The Volunteer Mission Experience*. (For the booklet, \$4.00 each, make checks payable to: **NACCC, P.O. Box 288, Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154-0620.**

[] Minister’s endorsement. Please have your minister, or in the absence of a minister, an official from your church, send us a letter of endorsement. If you are not part of a church right now just mention that to Jack Brown. Please send your completed application to: **Mazahua Mission Trip - 2010, Olivet Congregational Church, Box 368, 125 College St., Olivet, MI, 49076** or email to pilgrim_pastor@hotmail.com

[] Application Form. We require all volunteers to complete the application form we provide. Your signature on your application form indicates to us **that you have considered, accept, and will abide by and honor all conditions.**

To assure consideration of your application, send it as soon as possible but no later than February 1, 2012. Later applications will be received until our roster is full (35 people). Acceptance and waiting lists will be developed and we can tell you at any time where you stand. Earliest applications will be given precedence; however, selection of participants is entirely at the discretion of the group leaders. Acceptance is conditioned on the receipt of **\$375.00** (\$275.00 is refundable until May 15, 2012, at that date our funds are sent to Mexico;) - checks payable to: **Olivet Congregational Church, memo: “Mazahua Mission Trip/ 2012”.**

We will hope to abide by the following schedule (If you know you will be tardy relative these dates just let us know; we can work with you):

- **February 1**, deadline for applications. Deadline for receipt of **\$375** participation fee to confirm your participation if you are accepted is **February 15**. (If there is a problem with getting your **\$375** to us by February 15 you must let us know or we will assume you are not coming and will give away your place to the next person on the waiting list.)
- **February 15**, notification to those accepted and those on waiting list.
- **March 1**, deadline for those accepted from waiting list to submit participation fee of **\$375**.

- **Mid-April** possible orientation meeting in Mid-Michigan for those in our vicinity.
- **After acceptance**, purchase tickets.
- **Early February** we will send out an acceptance/newsletter including “Wish-list”, a suggested packing list, and facsimile forms: permission to treat, travel permit for minors. We will also include the roster of participants with addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. (We will also provide this to anyone who is accepted after this date).
- **Mid-May** we will send a final newsletters with last minute news.

Application form can be sent upon request: pilgrim_pastor@hotmail.com 269.749.2631 - Jack Brown.

We can provide you with additional information if you are interested:

- About Mission Mazahua
- About the Mazahua indigenous people
- About the Municipality of San Felipe del Progreso
- Maps
- Feedback Reports from previous team members
- DVD of previous trips

Check List

- [] Read and be willing to comply with all standards and expectations stated in this introductory prospectus letter.
- [] Acquire and Read the Short-term Volunteer Experience. Available by calling 800.262.1620 (Ask for Linda Miller), \$4.00 each, make checks payable to: **NACCC, P.O. Box 288, Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154-0620**
- [] Valid U.S. Passport (it usually takes 2 months minimum to process from time of application. U.S. Passports are generally valid for 10 years).
- [] Photo I.D., Government issued (photo on your passport is sufficient).
- [] Clergy letter of endorsement (if you do not have a pastor, mention that on your application).
- [] Completed Application Form.
- [] \$375 Participation Fee. **[and \$100 cash or an active credit card with you in case your flight(s) are delayed and you want to stay in a hotel rather than overnight at the airport.]**
- [] Airline Round Ticket to Mexico City, Juarez International Airport, Thursday, June 21- Thursday, June 28, 2012 (after notification of acceptance on the team.) [Alternatively, a ticket to the airport in Toluca, State of Mexico, is also a possibility; you will need to plan for a \$50 taxi ride to the mission from that airport if a mission vehicle is not available at the time of your arrival to pick you up.]
- [] For minors: **a)** Notarized letter authorizing your travel to Mexico (if not accompanied by both parents) and, **b)** Notarized letter granting permission for emergency medical treatment. **c)** Signed note from parents approving overnight stay with a Mazahua family (orientation provided and on condition of availability). **We have facsimile copies of the letters that need to be notarized for minor travel to Mexico and for emergency medical treatment; just ask for copies.**