

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Mission Trip to Baja California, Mexico July 25-31, 2010

[Note: Significant changes from the 2009 trip are in red font and italicized in this document.]

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[Note: Significant changes from the 2009 trip are in red font and italicized in this document.]

When is it?

The trip begins in San Diego at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, July 25 and ends approximately 5:00 p.m. in San Diego on Saturday, July 31.

When can I sign up?

Registration is open now and ends January 15, 2010.

Why does the registration open and close so early? The trip isn't until July!!

The trip has become extremely popular and for the past several years we have been reserving our week two years in advance. By mid-January we have to give YWAM (Youth With a Mission, the mission group we work through in California) our final team count and pay a deposit of \$100/person.

Who can join the team?

The trip is open to anyone (certain age restrictions apply for youth), and everyone is responsible for paying their own travel costs in the U.S. Participants who are not members or active participants in a congregation of Shenandoah Presbytery will be required to pay a *\$300 fee* covering travel/meals/lodging in Mexico.

How many can go?

We have 60 spaces available. We can make the trip with any number under that.

Who's leading the trip?

Mac Sterrett, a member of Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church in Fort Defiance, is the Team Leader. Mac has been on this trip every year since it first began in 2000. In addition, several committed individuals who have been several times in the past also serve on the Leadership Team to help formulate plans, make decisions, and organize the trip. Call or email Mac at (540) 448-0552 or macsterrett@comcast.net if you have specific questions not answered in the FAQ.

Is there an age limit?

Yes.... sort of. The minimum age is 14 (this is a requirement set by Youth With a Mission – more on them in a minute). However, on a case-by-case basis, we have and will again allow mature youth under this age to go if an adult on the trip agrees to take responsibility for them, and the Leadership Team approves it; we have YWAM's blessing to do this. That decision rests solely with the Leadership Team, and we ask that you respect that decision. There is no upper age limit.

How many people will be there?

We have 60 spots available on our team. There may be other teams at the mission compound that week building houses as well, perhaps as many as 100 people total.

Where are we going?

To Vicente Guerrero, Baja California, Mexico. It's about 200 miles south of San Diego, CA.

What will we do?

We'll build several houses from the ground up for indigent Oaxacan Indians. Or we'll build a church, or a schoolhouse, or we may work on certain other projects at the mission base or other mission outposts. In the past the focus has been on building houses, but things are changing there and we might be asked to do other types of projects. In the past we have mainly built one- or two-room

houses, but we have also built schoolhouses (the same structure as a house) and have worked on other repair and building projects. The current house design is what they call a “double-build” and consists of either three or four rooms. We began building these in 2006, and this is what appears to be the greatest housing need, so it is likely this is what we will be building. There is a lot of work now on-going at the mission base, and we may be asked to help build offices, bunk houses, schoolrooms, etc. House builds begin on Monday and we try to have them completed by Thursday evening, leaving Friday as a day for touring the local orphanage, shopping for Oaxacan handicrafts, and going to the beach. In addition, we always do one or two evening “outreaches” during the week, including attendance at a local worship service.

Why are we building them houses?

The Oaxacans are very poor and there is much discrimination against them. Many of them live in shelters made of flattened cardboard boxes, scrap paper and plastic, sticks, cast-off lumber... anything they can lay their hands on. We have seen some who literally live in cardboard boxes.

What kind of house will we build? Will they have electricity and running water?

The houses have evolved since the earlier years of this mission and the current design, the “double build,” is a four-room configuration. The size of a double build is 20’ x 22’ (440 square feet), and the houses are built on a concrete pad. It’s constructed of “panels” made from plywood and 2 x 4s. The roof is made of panels as well. It has one door, three windows, and an outhouse (there is no plumbing or running water). We always purchase and install an additional window or two for each house for more ventilation, and we build beds, tables, etc., and purchase used mattresses, chairs, propane stove, kitchen utensils, etc. Usually they don’t have electricity, but we usually wire the house anyway for future electrical connection.

How many houses will we build?

Probably four. It depends on a number of factors: available funds, the size of the team we take, and also how many houses are being built the week we are there. The missionaries we work with have set a limit of 6-8 houses per week. We generally have 15 on a house-building team, give or take a couple, and it is likely we will build three or four houses (or similar projects), depending upon the makeup of the group.

I don’t know anything about building houses or construction or anything like that; can I go?

Yes! Can you swing a hammer? Blow bubbles? Screw in a screw? Cut a piece of wire with pliers? Stick a sticker on a child’s forehead? Paint? Draw a line with a pencil? Blow up a balloon? Lift a board? Smile at a shy person? Hug a child? Bounce a ball? Play ring-around-the-rosy? If you can do any of these things, then we need your skills!

If I’m under 18, do my parents have to go?

No. However, an adult who knows you and will be on the trip must agree to be responsible for you and be willing to sign a form that they will take on that responsibility. Usually this is a member of your church, but it doesn’t have to be. Both parents and/or legal guardians must sign a permission form before you will be allowed to participate.

Do I have to be able to speak Spanish?

No, but if you do, all the better. The people at the Mission are Americans and Canadians, and the people we are building for are Oaxacan Indians. Some of them don’t speak Spanish, but most do. Nearly all of the children speak Spanish. We will have an American/Canadian building supervisor on

the build site (one of the missionaries) to help with translations, so while knowledge of Spanish is helpful, it's not necessary.

What mission groups are we working with?

There are two. All of our arrangements are made through Youth With a Mission (YWAM), headquartered in Richardson Springs near Chico, CA. YWAM is a world-wide mission community with missions everywhere. Richardson Springs does many types of missions; two of the missionaries there are devoted to building houses for the Oaxacans, one of the short-term outreach programs they operate out of Richardson Springs. One of them will be leading our trip for the week. To learn more about YWAM, visit their web site at <http://www.ywamchico.com>. For the house-building mission, link to "Short-Term Outreach" at http://www.ywamchico.com/sto/sto_page2.html.

While in Vicente Guerrero we will be staying at and working with International Disciple Training (IDT). IDT is a small local mission comprised of Americans and Canadians who have moved to that area and whose mission is to spread God's Word. One of the ways in which they do this is by providing housing for the Oaxacans.

So, we're a YWAM team going to help IDT build houses for the week.

How much will it cost?

That depends on you!!

Costs that we hope to cover through fundraising: The costs associated with the trip are: **\$300/person YWAM fee** to cover room, board, and travel for the week; **approximately \$3,600 for a house/school/church**; extra money for each family and building site (paint, extra lumber, used furniture, used mattresses, propane stove, taking families shopping, estimated to be **\$2,000 per house**. **We are hoping to cover all the above expenses through grants, gifts, and fund-raising activities, but if we fall short, every team member will be expected to come up with the remainder. An excellent incentive to do some great fund-raising, no?!**

Your cost will be all your U.S. expenses, including your round-trip travel costs to San Diego, any overnight expenses you might incur either before or after the mission trip, and your meals and ground transportation expenses. Round-trip flights to San Diego tend to run in the \$225 - \$300 range. Hotel for two nights (one before and one after the trip) have run about \$100 (we usually put four in a room and save, but you can stay as expensively as you like); ground transportation about \$20 (can be free if your hotel has a shuttle); and we typically have about four meals. So, your cost will likely be between \$400-\$500 per person, but may be considerably less. If you use frequent flyer miles and have friends or relatives you can stay with in San Diego, *it could be nearly free!* Many hotels will include a free or low-cost shuttle service to and from the airport as well.

Maybe you'll want to drive to San Diego and see the country; maybe you'll want to delay your return a week or two and travel the West Coast. Doing it this way puts **you** in control of your trip to and from California, both from the standpoint of cost and scheduling.

We hope your home church might be able to help you with some of your expenses, and you likely will want to do some fund-raising on your own to help raise money to cover some of your expenses. Tell your friends and family that for a birthday or Christmas gift, you want money for your trip.

Where do we meet?

In San Diego! Many of us end up staying at the same hotel so you'll probably run into a lot of your friends there. On Sunday morning you will be responsible for getting to our meeting place, usually a hotel parking lot or the San Diego airport.

Where will we be in Mexico?

200 miles south of San Diego on the Baja Peninsula in a small town called Vicente Guerrero. It's about the size of the Town of Bridgewater. We actually will stay about two miles from town in a tiny community of about 40 houses. There, we stay at the IDT Mission, a single-family brick ranch house that has been converted into a mission base/church. We are building houses in a "colonia," or shantytown, which might be as close as one mile away but could be as far away as 15 or 20 miles.

Where will we sleep?

In bunkhouses ("dorms") made of plywood, with concrete floors. Each one has four sets of bunks that sleep eight people. It has a door, a window, one light bulb, and nothing else! If you're lucky, you might find a beat-up chair or a makeshift table. There is a possibility that some of our team, if you choose, might sleep in tents. However, there should be dorm space available for everyone on our team. Males and females are separate; there are no provisions for married couples, so you'll have to sleep separately for the week.

Is the food safe to eat?

Yes. ***But you have to play by the rules!!!*** The food we have for our meals at the mission is safe and prepared specifically for us, and a couple of times we eat out during the week at places the missionaries know to be safe. However, you should listen carefully to what the mission team members tell you about where and where not to eat. They have learned the hard way! And if you ever purchase any fruits, they must be washed in water treated with Clorox before you eat them.

What kind of meals will we eat?

Mostly American. All our meals, with two exceptions, are prepared at the Mission. It's not fancy, but there's plenty. On Sunday night we eat at a local taco stand, *Papa Ruben's*, and have real, honest-to-goodness, Mexican tacos. On Friday night, we all eat dinner at a nice restaurant where we have a choice of entrees. These meals are included in your fee.

I'm a vegetarian/vegan/lactose intolerant; can they prepare special meals for me?

No. Due to the size of the groups there during the week and the very limited kitchen facilities and staff available, IDT staff are unable to prepare special meals. Nearly every meal we will be served at the mission will contain meat, cheese or dairy products. Fresh fruit and peanut butter and jelly are available at all meals, but if you have special needs, please plan on bringing your own "snacks." (Be sure to read up on government/airline web sites to ensure you are not carrying any items that might be confiscated or are illegal).

I have food allergies; will I be okay eating food there?

If you have specific food allergies, such as nuts, etc., please inform your leaders so that we can make arrangements with IDT staff and kitchen staff to shield you from those food items.

What about drinking water and toilet facilities?

We drink safe water all the time we are in Mexico. The toilet facilities at the Mission are fine; three hot/cold showers; three toilets, and three sinks in both the men and women's facilities. They're nice and clean. *[Note: occasionally, particularly toward the end of the week, the sewer system can't handle all the water going into it and toilets will back up. If things like this bother you, perhaps this is*

not the type trip you will want to make. Although the facilities are quite adequate, things like this do happen. This is a less-developed country, and you should not expect conditions to be like they are in your own home or the local Holiday Inn.]

Is there electricity?

At the Mission, yes. In the colonia where we are building houses, maybe. There is power in some areas, not in others. But don't plan on bringing curling irons, hair dryers and stuff like that; you'll be sorry you wasted your time toting all that stuff to Mexico!

Do I have to take bedding materials?

Yes. You will be supplied with a mattress. Either take a sleeping bag, or else take sheets/blankets. And take a pillow. What many of us have done in the past is buy new or used sheets, blankets, pillows and pillowcases at a discount store or second-hand shop, use them for the week, and then leave them for the families. That way they get bedding, and we don't have to carry things home. Sheets cannot be bought in this area of Mexico, so we always try to take enough sheets to make the beds for the homes we build.

Can I take an extra piece of luggage?

Yes... probably. YWAM has discouraged that in the past, but the last several years, since IDT has gotten a trailer to haul the luggage, there seems to have been plenty of room. However, extra luggage can only be for donations, not for your personal items. You will receive further guidance on this as we get close to departure time. Also, you likely now will have to pay for extra luggage if you are flying to San Diego.

What kind of clothes should I wear and take?

Casual and old! You can wear shorts on our travel days into and out of Mexico, and you can wear shorts around the Mission. Although shorts really aren't a part of their culture, and "When in Rome, do as the Romans," this rule seems to be changing. Teams members and missionaries have been wearing shorts more and more, even in the colonias, and you will be fine as long as your shorts are knee-length or longer. Short shorts are not allowed at any time, anywhere, so don't bother to bring them along. If you bring shorts, they must be conservative. The same applies to tops: leave the navel-barers and low-cut v-necks at home.

Some people take two pairs of pants: one to wear every day on the build, and one other to wear everywhere else. You're not trying to impress anyone down there! Many people leave their clothes behind when they leave; the clothes can be washed and given to the Oaxacans who often have only one set of clothes.

You'll definitely want a windbreaker, sweatshirt or light jacket for the evenings, especially for the windy beach!

Who are we building houses for?

We are building houses for Oaxacan Indians, one of the native peoples of Mexico. They are similar to Native Americans, like the Navajos and other tribes we know of, in that they speak their own languages and have their own culture. And they are extremely poor. Many of them are illiterate, and some do not speak Spanish. Most of the children do, however.

Do I need to bring any tools?

You can if you want, but tools are supplied. But not many! If you want to bring along a tape measure or hammer or pocketknife or some small tools like that, it's okay. In the past we've brought a few things like that and just left them in the missionaries' toolboxes. Not all of the sites have electricity, and we sometimes have generators or use battery-powered tools. One thing that is extremely handy that you might want to consider: a multi-tool, like a Leatherman. It's likely we'll purchase some tools in San Diego to donate to the cause as well, if we raise enough money, and recently, some team members have been bringing their own power tools, such as circular saws, drills, and sawzalls.

Do they speak English?

Not as a rule, though we have encountered a few Oaxacans, particularly children, who know a little bit of English.

What's an outreach?

In addition to building homes, YWAM and IDT work with the Oaxacans to spread God's Word. In the evenings, usually once or twice during the week, we go to a colonia or rehab center to share with the Oaxacans or Mexicans. Share the Word, maybe serve a meal, take gifts to the children, just share fellowship. There usually is a worship service. We never know beforehand if or how many outreaches we will do, but your participation is encouraged; it's a part of doing mission work.

Will other people/teams be there as well?

Probably. There might be as many as 60 other people there the same week, and it might be that our team will be the only ones. We've had it both ways in the past.

Will we be traveling together?

Once we meet up as a team in San Diego on Sunday morning, we will be together as a team until we return to San Diego the following Saturday afternoon. In fact, on Sunday morning, our team probably will be meeting up with others going down that week, so we generally are part of a larger group traveling, living, working and worshiping together for the week. Before and after that, you're on your own, but you might want to buddy up with several other team members and travel to and from San Diego together.

How do we travel to and while in Mexico?

Once our entire team has gathered at the meeting place in San Diego, we'll pick up rental vans and caravan as a group all the way to our destination in Mexico. The vans are our transportation for the entire week. We usually travel in 15-passenger vans.

How long does the trip take? What are the roads like?

From San Diego, it's about a 5-hour drive (200 miles) to Vicente Guerrero. Hard surface highways, a combination of four-lane and two-lane.

Who drives the vans?

Adult members of our team, selected before we leave home, are drivers. Only approved drivers 25 or older are allowed to drive the vans, so you youngsters, don't ask!

Will we have a guide?

Yes. Our "leader" for the entire week will be a missionary with YWAM, and they usually have one assistant helping them as well. YWAM has been taking groups down for years, and they will be our guide and shepherd for the week. At the IDT Mission in Vicente Guerrero, there are several missionaries who will be helping and working with us during the week.

Is it safe in Mexico?

Our experiences in Mexico thus far have been extremely safe. Everyone on the team is expected to abide by the rules agreed upon prior to becoming a part of the group. These rules help to promote safety for you individually as well as the group.

What's it like to cross the border?

Going down it usually takes only a few minutes or so, and rarely do any of our vans get pulled for a search. If we do, that could add a few minutes. Usually only the driver has to do any talking, answering a couple of questions. Coming back into the U.S., it usually takes 1-1/2 - 2 hours to get back across the border; traffic is very heavy coming out of Mexico. It's the same routine; usually only the driver has to answer questions, but they might ask any one of you if you bought any fireworks, or where you were born, etc.

Will I get sick in Mexico from eating the food or drinking the water?

Yes, you will if you don't play by the rules! *But if you pay attention, the risk is slight.* We are provided with safe water and food at all times. You must do your part to keep your hands clean constantly and not eat any foods that have not been prepared for you, or that come from an eating establishment that has not been declared "safe" by our missionary friends.

What shots/immunizations do I need?

None are required for the trip, but two are highly recommended: tetanus; and hepatitis A (and many people get B as well with the combination A/B immunization).

Tetanus is a no-brainer; lots of nails and ways to get a cut on a piece of rusty metal, so make sure your tetanus booster is up-to-date. There have been a couple of cases of hep A, and I think one hep B, on these house-building mission trips, but no one on any of our Shenandoah Presbytery trips has ever contracted hep A or B, to my knowledge.

This is not a malaria area.

All that being said, these are personal health decisions. Here is a link to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website for Mexico:

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/mexico.aspx>

You can get these immunizations at your local health department or your family medical facility. I've found the health department to be a less costly source, and they are very accommodating.

Are there medical facilities in case I get really sick or injured?

Yes, there is a small medical clinic about four miles from where we are staying where you could be treated for minor injuries or medical emergencies, like broken bones, flu, etc. There is also a hospital about 15 miles away. We've taken team members to both in the past and they have received excellent care. Major medical emergencies would require you most likely return to San Diego.

Have other team members gotten sick in the past?

Yep, sure have. Every year a half-dozen or so people get sick for about 24 hours, and it's usually the standard diarrhea and vomiting routine. Not pleasant, but survivable. It's a combination of things: dry climate, not drinking enough water, heat, bacteria we're not used to, time change, different foods..... any number of things. Clean your hands constantly with waterless anti-bacterial soap.

However, you should know that on the trip in 2004, over 50 members of our team became very ill the last day and were violently ill for about 24-48 hours, taking several more days to get fully back in the saddle. Symptoms were limited to vomiting (very violent), diarrhea and severe exhaustion, and for a few days we suspected either food poisoning or dishes being washed in contaminated water. However, since family members of a number of our team members became ill within a day or two of our team members returning home, we now know that we encountered some sort of virus. It was not a pleasant experience, but this, too, passed and was part of the mission experience in sharing God's Word in less-developed countries.

Should I take any medicines or things like that?

By all means, take your prescription medications; make sure they are in the original container issued by your pharmacy or doctor. Be sure to take *and use* waterless anti-bacterial soap. Take a small size that will fit in your pocket or belly-bag so you can keep it with you at all times, as you need to clean your hands frequently. Aspirin, Pepto-Bismol or similar products are good to have along as well. Sunscreen is a must.

What's the climate and weather?

It's desert, but we're two miles off the beach, so it doesn't get very hot (usually!). Days usually are sunny or overcast with highs around 70-75, occasionally up to 80, but not often. Every now and then we get a week that is quite hot, into the 90s. Nights generally get down to around 60. The beach itself often is socked in with fog. It has rained on us only a couple of times during the years we have been going there, and then for only a couple of hours. They normally get about two or three inches of rain a year, generally in October and February, or thereabouts.

Can we go to the beach?

Yes. But be forewarned: this is not a beach vacation! We always go to the beach on Friday afternoon after the houses are completed, but the Pacific is very cold, often too cold to swim in, and the weather often is cool. Occasionally we try to go to the beach in the afternoon or early evening for 20-30 minutes, but this is not guaranteed nor is it generally a time to swim; just a chance to see the water and unwind.

How can we be contacted in case of emergency?

You will be provided with emergency phone number(s) prior to departure from home.

Can my friends and family call me during the week?

Probably not, but things are changing down there with respect to phones and service. Don't plan on it, though.

Can I phone home?

Maybe. You can purchase long-distance calling cards in Vicente Guerrero which work in the pay phone outside the front door of the IDT mission, but sometimes the phone isn't there. The phone counts down your available minutes on a display as you talk. However, you should not count on this, as sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. It is best to plan on not being in communication with people back in the States during the week.

Can I take a cell phone?

Sure, you can take it, but it won't work in Mexico unless you have an international cell phone.

Can I take a camera? An iPod?

Sure. Just remember to take proper precautions, keep it with you or locked up at all times, etc. Treat it the way you would on any trip. You might also want to keep it in a Zip-Lock bag to help protect it from sand and dirt; there's lots of that around there!

Do I need a passport?

Yes. The law continues to be a moving target, but here is the information provided by YWAM in September 2007 which applies to this trip: **“We will be unable to take you into Mexico without your passport. If even one person does not have their passport within a group they will detain the entire van load of people when we try to leave Mexico.”** If you need a passport, apply early, as it can take several months to get one.

Do I need a birth certificate?

No. All you need is a passport.

What's a “certified copy” of a birth certificate?

[This information no longer applies to this trip, but you might be interested anyway.] A certified copy is a special copy that is issued by the Health Department of the state in which you were born. ***It is not a photocopy!!!*** Normally there is a fee, maybe \$15-20, to get a certified copy, and it may take a few days.

Will we be doing any fund-raisers?

Yes. Most church teams do their own fund-raising, but we might plan to do one or two group fund-raisers to generate enough funds to make the trip. We try to raise additional monies to help support our families and the missionaries who help the Oaxacans. Everyone who goes on the trip should plan to participate in some type of fund-raising. Proceeds from any group fund-raisers will not be used to defray your individual expenses. You may wish to do some fund-raising of your own to help with that.

Can I take gifts, toys, medical supplies, etc?

Yes, but make them small and inexpensive. Nickel- or dime-toys such as balloons, rubber balls, stickers, etc., are fun for the children. Beach balls are cheap and pack nicely. They love soccer balls, but deflate them and take an air needle and a pump with you so we can blow them up. Toothbrushes and toothpaste, small hand-held mirrors, combs, soap, etc; things like that are useful and appreciated.

Will I need any money in Mexico?

Yes, you'll want money for several things. Sometimes in the evening we run out to get ice cream or tacos or pizza, so you might want a little cash for that. A couple of times we have gone to the circus, if it's in town. On Friday afternoon we'll go to the town square park where we'll have the opportunity to buy things that the Oaxacan women have woven. We always like to buy their wares, as this is how they make their living. On our way home Saturday, we stop in Ensenada where we'll have an hour or so to shop for souvenirs. **Please note: You can spend dollars in Mexico, but don't bring anything larger than a \$10.00 bill, and plan to use your fives and tens only in Ensenada. The rest of the time you'll want ones. ONES; got it??**

What's a typical day like?

Most people get up around 6:00 or 6:30. Breakfast generally is served at 7:00. Around 8:00 we gather for a 30-minute informal worship service, and around 8:45 we pile in the vans and head for the build site. We work until noon when our bag lunch of sandwiches, chips/cookies, apple, and Kool-Aid is served to us, and we eat sitting on the ground or a pile of boards (usually we give most of our lunch to the kids who have little or nothing to eat). We generally work until around 4:00, then head back to the Mission for a shower and early dinner around 5:00 or 5:30. In the evening we may go do an outreach somewhere, or maybe we'll ride over into town to get tacos at Papa Ruben's or some ice cream. Or maybe we'll just hang around and play games, sing songs, or read. Usually on Wednesday night we attend church services in Vicente Guerrero.

What airports do you recommend?

You want to fly into Lindbergh International Airport in San Diego; the airport code, if you're doing internet searches, is SAN. The best rates in the past always have been out of BWI (Baltimore) or Dulles (IAD). Pay particular attention to Southwest Airlines for great fares.

What hotels can you recommend?

The hotel where most of us have stayed in past years and which has been very satisfactory is:

Motel 6 San Diego Airport
2353 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA
619-232-8931

The rooms aren't fancy but they are clean; they provide a reduced-rate airport shuttle; it's five minutes from the airport. There are lots of other hotels in the area, some are nicer and some are not as nice. Stay wherever your heart and budget desires.

The Team Leader usually tries to reserve enough hotel rooms at one hotel for the entire team, so before you book, check to see if rooms already have been secured.

Important: Sometimes our weekends in San Diego coincide with ComiCon International, the largest annual convention hosted by San Diego. Hundreds of thousands flood the place. Hotel prices rise dramatically, and if you don't make reservations early you might find you have no place to stay. Flight arrangements might also be an issue the weekend of ComiCon, so start early.

What are your travel suggestions?

Whether you fly or drive, you must arrive in San Diego no later than the evening of Saturday, July 24, 2010. Stay the night in San Diego. That way you'll get a good night's sleep and be up in plenty of time to meet up with the group by 9:00 a.m. In the past we've had team members try to arrive Sunday morning and it makes it very difficult; you never know when flights might get delayed, and you don't want to be late, because the caravan cannot wait for you if you are late. It's not worth the risk of missing the trip to save the cost of a cheap hotel!

What do I need to do if I want to go?

You need to give us a firm commitment in writing by filling out two or three forms. You can register anytime up until January 15, 2010. Spots will be reserved on a first-come, first served basis. A commitment means you definitely plan to attend, not that you just think you might want to go.

Where can I get the registration forms?

The forms are available on the Shenandoah Presbytery web site at <http://www.shenpres.org/mc/mce1.html> . Please read the instructions; if you are a “veteran Bajaer” you will have to fill out two forms, and if this is your first time on the trip, you will have one additional form to complete.

Where do I send my completed forms?

Completed forms can be mailed to:

Mrs. Rhonda Richie
149 Mary’s Run Rd
Churchville, VA 24421

Or faxed to Rhonda at: 540-886-0148 - Attention Rhonda

Do I have to send any money with my registration?

No! We plan to raise the necessary funds through grants, donations and fundraising. You will, however, be responsible for your personal travel costs in the U.S., and remember, if we don’t raise all the necessary funds, then everyone will be responsible for “anteing up” the remainder. But we’ve always been able to raise the necessary funds in the past.