

COLONIA 89, SUMMER FAMILY MISSION TRIP, ENSENADA, MEXICO

Teens and families serve the Mexican church members and community as needed

Every summer, usually the last week of July, teens and adults travel to serve the members and visitors at the Colonia 89 church of Christ which we helped plant in 2005.

Every year since 2006, we have gone to serve, doing things like medical missions, evangelism, construction, benevolence work, service projects, and teaching. As the church has grown in maturity over the last ten years, our efforts have changed. It has been fascinating for Bentonville members to experience the church's growth. We started out helping Colonia 89 to evangelize their families, friends, and neighbors. As the church has matured, our work has changed. They went through an involvement phase, so we taught children and adults on the importance of getting involved in their church. Then they went through a leadership and spiritual maturity phase, so we taught classes to help with those needs.

Like all adolescent churches, the "89" church has experienced leadership and membership difficulties. Last year, they were trying to start a new congregation called Nueva 89, just three miles from their current location. It didn't go well, so they are starting the process over, and trying to learn from their mistakes. Our job this year was encouragement. We picked up trash, painted over graffiti, and planted young trees to encourage our Mexican brethren and to remind them that God is the God of new beginnings. Each year is filled with new challenges and joy, and this is an incredible trip if you can go!

TRIP DETAILS

Length of trip: One week

Dates: Usually last week of July

Cost: Usually \$850, though it may vary

Transportation: Fly from Tulsa to San Diego, bus to Ensenada

Lodging: One star hotel (maybe), Ensenada

Contact John or Todd for more information:

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UKRAINE MISSION TRIP, DNIPRO, UKRAINE

Supporting the Soborna Church outreach

Bentonville has established good, strong relationships with Christians in Ukraine. We worked many years with the Kirova church providing spiritual teaching and basketball camps. Now, Bentonville helps the second generation of Christians in Dnipro at the new Soborna congregation, started in 2015.

For the past three years Ukraine has been challenged by the war in eastern Ukraine. The Soborna church of Christ has provided comfort and assistance to persons displaced by the fighting in the east. They have also started a school for local children and teens in addition to caring for widows and orphans. They host a summer camp to encourage Christians from around their war-torn country. They are currently building a new worship center to house their growing congregation. With assistance from Steve and Michelle Carter, Kate Caton, and Dennis and Kathy Cherry, this congregation is taking important steps toward maturity and growth. Over the past four years, the team from Bentonville along with Greg Ziegler and Sandy Meaux have presented lessons in leadership, service, parenting, marriage, education, and spiritual growth.

Missionaries have been invited to interact with students in local schools. They will also have the opportunity to interact with and teach youth and adults in the Soborna church, to visit shut-ins and orphans and to worship with Christians in Ukraine.

TRIP DETAILS

Length of trip: Two weeks

Dates: Spring 2018, late March/early April

Cost: \$2,600-\$3,000, a large portion is covered by the MES budget

Transportation: Fly from XNA to Chicago to Vienna to Dnipro; return trip requires an overnight stay in Vienna

Lodging: Hotel Menora or City MOST apartments

Contact Kathy Caton for more information:

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