

February 27, 2023

Hola Mexico Adventurers,

In a few short days you will begin your outreach to Vicente Guerrero, Baja California, Mexico where you will have the wonderful opportunity to serve by building homes, serving and ministering to some very needy people. This letter will go over some final details about the trip, as well as letting you know what you'll need to bring.

**** Contact info: Cell: (808)345-7180 Email: ashermotola@gmail.com**

We will be meeting at the airport - SouthWest Terminal 1, on Sunday, March 12 and we will return to the same place on Saturday the 18th of March.

**** Please remember! EVERYONE (all ages) without exception MUST have a valid passport to enter Mexico.**

Following is a list of items you will need – however, do please remember to pack lightly. The luggage space on the drive from San Diego to Vicente Guerrero is limited. Please have no more than one suitcase plus your sleeping bag and a small backpack for personal items.

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| - Bible | - Bandana (to cover your face from dust) |
| - Sleeping Bag | - Swim Suit |
| - Pillow | (girls: no bikinis, guys: no Speedos) |
| - Jacket/Sweater (it gets cold!) | - Sun Screen |
| - Earplugs (yes, people snore) | - Hat & Sunglasses (sun protection) |
| - Bath Towel | - Tennis Shoes or Work Boots |
| - Toiletries | - Grubby Work Clothes |
| - Hand Sanitizer | - Glasses (contact wearers - it's windy) |
| - Personal Items (socks, undies, etc) | |

Please bring cash in small denominations (nothing larger than a \$10 bill, if possible) for personal shopping. Purchases for the house build (paint, materials, etc), may be made with large bills. U.S. currency is accepted everywhere. Credit cards are not widely used and certainly not at the market. There is an ATM in town - you will incur fees. The current exchange rate is around 19.5 pesos per 1 U.S. dollar (but it changes daily). The town we are heading to is Vicente Guerrero. It enjoys a temperate climate very similar to San Diego. It is located less than 2 miles from the Pacific Ocean coastline. Temperatures at this time of year can range from 50° F at night to over 80° F during the day. It rarely rains – they only get 4-5 inches of rain per year (but you never know!) As you might imagine, without much rain the area is very dusty, it is also quite windy. (If you

wear contacts, you might want to consider bringing your glasses...just in case.) Also, be sure to bring a bandana to cover your face if the dust starts blowing around. There is no heating - it is chilly at night and in the morning – be sure to bring a jacket or sweatshirt!

Although we will only be a few hours south of the border, please be aware that the culture is very different! We want to bless the people of Mexico and be sensitive to them - modesty of dress is one way we can do that. Another way is to be careful about picture taking. **Please ask before you take pictures of anyone.** If you are unsure, ask me for assistance.

Some important information:

The local Christian community adheres to a very conservative mode of dress. We ask that you do so as well.

1. Long pants while working (for safety on the job), long shorts (at or below the knee) are acceptable.
2. Guys: No tank tops or muscle shirts. Girls: no shirts that show your cleavage, tummy or backside. Please stay covered up – Modest is Hottest!
3. Bathing Suits – One piece or Tankini style for the ladies, and swim trunks for the guys. If you don't have this type of suit, you can wear a t-shirt and shorts.
4. Men will need to wear a shirt at all times, except when we are at the beach.

Following are some health and safety specifics to keep in mind:

1. PLEASE...no bare feet while walking around on the campus - there are stray nails.
2. **Do not put toilet paper in the toilets...ever** - put it in the wastebasket.
3. Wash your hands at every opportunity, and or use hand sanitizer.
4. Please avoid petting the dogs and cats. They may have mange!

If you have any questions about the outreach, you may call or text me for additional information: **808-345-7180**. And **Please inform your family that my number will be available for emergency calls during the week.**

My prayer is that God will direct your every word and action; that all you do will bring honor and glory to Him and that together you will further His Kingdom in Mexico.

Blessings in Him,

asher