

Mexico

Mission Trip



2011

New Years – Young Adults
Summer – Families

Bow Valley Christian Church
Anyone is welcome on either trip

A funny thing happened to me this last year. . . I've always believed that Christians are called by God to impact the world. Often, I've watched & waited for some huge, profound way to do this. This year I realized that it's really about all of us just taking small steps & that all those small steps together make a huge difference!

Giving one family a home and clean water is just a drop in the bucket of world poverty, but with lots of small steps huge change happens. By the time we're done in Mexico next summer, Bow Valley folk will have provided up to 20 families with homes! And we won't have just given them homes, we'll have given them clean water too. We're helping to change the world 1 family at a time.

Some of you are thinking, heading to Mexico is no small step! It's a huge step for some of you, we know, but why not give it a whirl & see some of the world while changing it.

Jesus called us to care for the poor and the oppressed. It's too easy to sit in our warm homes and never get out and actually do something about Jesus' love in our lives. Here's a chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

If you don't believe in Jesus the same way we do, it's all good — anyone is welcome to join us! We want to help make a lifetime of difference, one family at a time. We'd love to have you along.

We have 2 trips coming up next year:

At New Years we're inviting any young adults (age 18-30ish) and grade 11 & 12 students to come. Our hope is to build some great connections and relationships for the future.

Over the summer holidays, we're planning for a family trip. Fraser's and DeWit's have had such great experiences with their kids we want to open it wide for other people to join us!

As always for our trips, if you don't fit this demographic, but want to come, please talk to us, we'd still love to have you come!

One of the coolest things about all of this is it is not just the people we help that are changed. Our lives are helped and healed and given meaning by serving others as well.

As one aboriginal activist said: "If you have come to help me you are wasting your time. But, if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

The lives of the families we build houses for will never be the same after we serve with them.

Our lives will never be the same after we serve with them.

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GENERAL INFO

- If you see BVCC or Bow Valley, that's Bow Valley Christian Church
- Some symbols to know about:
 - ☀ The summer trip
 - 🎉 The New Year's trip

TRIP ITINERARY

Activity	New Years 2011 Trip 🎉	Summer 2011 Trip ☀
Leave Calgary, arrive San Diego. Pick up vans and cross border to Mexico. Unload vans, and set up camp.	Monday, December 27 (Travel to Mexico)	Day 1
Start construction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix concrete and pour slab (the floor) • Start constructing walls 	Tuesday, December 28 (Build day 1)	Day 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct walls and roof • Tar paper roof • Bailing wire on walls, tar paper walls, stucco wire walls 	Wednesday, December 29 (Build Day 2)	Day 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish putting on stucco wire • Mix stucco and put on walls • Shingle roof • Do second coat of stucco • Install Windows and doors • New Years in Mexico! 	Thursday, December 30 (Build Day 3)	Day 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do any finishing touches, clean up work site • Hand over keys for the house to the family • Play with the kids • Go to the Market in Rosarito 	Friday, December 31 (Build Day 4)	Day 5
Pack up camp, drive to San Diego. Team supper and debrief.	Saturday, January 1	Day 6
Sunday morning Church service	Sunday, January 2*	Day 7
Recreation and shopping.	Monday- Tuesday, January 3-4**	Day 8-?***
Leave San Diego and return to Calgary	Wednesday, January 5	

* (University/College Students: if you have a block class starting on Jan 3rd, we can get flights for you, there will be an additional expense)

** Flights look like they will be significantly cheaper to stay until January 5th, so 2 days in SoCal

*** Some families may choose to stay for more holiday, this can be negotiated appropriately.

IMPORTANT DATES (NEW YEAR'S TRIP)

September 19	Info Meeting, Applications and Deposits Available
October 17	1st Team Meeting at 6pm at BVCC Applications and Deposits (\$200) Due
October 25	Deposit nonrefundable
November 21	\$600 due (or that much fundraised)
December 14	Balance of Cost due
December 27	Leave for Mexico!

☀ The summer dates will be similarly set back from the travel time.

COST BREAKDOWN

This breakdown is based on costs and Canadian dollar exchange rate as experienced last year. You will be responsible to cover the actual cost of the trip.♠

TRAVEL:	Flights (Calgary to San Diego and back) - \$725 Vans (San Diego to Mexico and back) - \$150
CAMPING PROS:	5 nights camping in Mexico, includes meals - \$280
AMOR:	Program costs (including tools) - \$280
HOTEL: ☀	Saturday – Tuesday (4 nights) - \$95
MEALS:	Food while not in Mexico - \$95
<u>TOTAL COST:</u>	<u>\$1625</u> ♥

For kids 10-12 years old, take \$75 off the price.

For kids 9 years old and younger, take \$250 off the price.♦

- ♠ The actual amount should be lower, not higher, unless the exchange rate becomes very unfriendly.
- ☀ The hotel cost for the family trip may be adjusted based on families staying together.
- ♥ You will likely want some money for snacks and souvenirs in addition to this.
- ♦ This is from different rates to Amor and Camping Pros.

FINANCIAL PLAN FOR NEW YEARS TRIP

☀ This will be similar to the summer trip, some fundraisers may be different. You are welcome to start fundraising for your summer trip during the New Years fundraiser, but people going on the New Years trip will receive first chance at certain fundraisers.

Deposit: \$200 with application by Oct 15

Deposit is non-refundable after Oct 25, because of fees to cancel flights at that point.

Also, we cannot give tax receipts for the deposit. The deposit covers personal portions of the trip.

Fundraising: Our desire is to raise all the funds for this trip. This takes work though!!! We have a number of fundraisers planned & are hoping to have a team of people who will steer our fundraising for this trip!

Everyone is asked to participate in fundraisers - it builds team as well as makes us money!

Leaders and organizers of events to make extra money. We really want to get more people involved at a higher level this year, and it will help your (or your children's) funds.

We will have **group fundraisers** as well as **individual options**. We will also send out **fundraising letters** - this is usually a great way to make up a significant amount of the cost! Family, friends, coworkers and church members are often excited and wanting to support people going to make a difference in another part of the world!

Fundraising Possibilities:

For the group:

Canasta Fiesta with a Silent Auction
Pizza Sales
Other ideas?

For individuals:

KidScenes child care at Corporate events
Company Donations
Fundraising Letters
Other ideas?

STUFF TO KNOW

APPLICATIONS: Anyone is free to apply. Upon reviewing applications, checking references, and talking with applicant we reserve the right and responsibility to not take an applicant.

BORDER CROSSINGS: This year we require all participants have a valid passport. There will be no exceptions. Please order your passport early. Passports cost \$87 CAN. Double check that your passport does not expire within 6 months of the end of your trip.

If you are under 18 years old, we will need your parents to have a notarized letter saying you are permitted to travel with us. If only one parent is coming on the trip, we must have this from the parent not coming. **Do not** get this yet, as we may be able to find a notary willing to do it for free for you.

HEALTH ISSUES: The staff at Amor ministries in Tijuana assured us that we do not need any special vaccinations in order to work there. We do however encourage you to get the Twinrex shot (Hep A & B) as well as a Tetanus shot. It isn't mandatory but we are going to a foreign country and it is a good idea.

If it is hot and sunny we must make sure we wear sun block, a hat and drink lots of water. While in Mexico we recommend that our team only drinks and eats the food and water that will be provided to us by Camping Pro's out of San Diego.

If a situation demands medical treatment that we will go up into the States for treatment, since we will be a short 20-60 minutes away. We as a team will always have a First Aid kit on hand.

We will be acquiring group health insurance for out of country on behalf of everyone participating in the trip who does not have it. If you have health insurance, we will need a copy of it. Otherwise this is an additional small expense (apr. \$15).

WEATHER:

☁ The weather at New Years is highs of mid to high teens, and the lows are right around 0°C over night.

☀ In July and August the highs are high 20's and 30's, and the lows are in the high teens.

MONEY: While in Mexico & LA all major expenses are covered, that includes transportation, food & lodging. However, snacks, souvenirs and recreational expenses are at your own expense. It is recommended that you have American cash, traveler's checks, and an automated bankcard. Peso's shouldn't be necessary as American cash is accepted every where we've been.

ACCOMMODATIONS: While in LA we will be staying in hotels (4 people to a room – 2 queen beds). ☀ We hope to find a hotel with suites for the family trip, but will wait to see cost. While in Mexico we will be staying in tents. Sleeping bags and pillows required.

DRIVING: All drivers must be 25 or older for insurance purposes. We will require a valid driver's license (check the expiration). While in Mexico we will only have one driver per van as it is a unique driving experience.

ALCOHOL: Do to this being a church trip we have a no alcohol policy. That includes both drinking and purchasing alcohol to bring back.

MEXICO MISSION TRIP PACKING LIST

GENERAL PACKING:

- Toothbrush/paste
(Travel size)
- Hair brush
- Deodorant
- Shampoo(travel size)
- Lip Balm
- Sunscreen & Insect repellent
- Shaving Kit
- Sanitary Supplies
- J-Cloth wash towels
(Disposable)
- Underwear
- Socks
- Pajamas
- 3 Pair pants/sweats/ wind pants
- Suitable work clothes
 - 4 T Shirts
 - 2 Long sleeve shirts
 - 2 Sweaters
 - 2 Jeans/coveralls
 - Work boots or shoes
 - Work gloves
 - Hat
- TOOLS:
 - Construction pencil
 - Nail pouch
- 2 Pair of shorts
- Swim suit & towel
- Coat (fleece for under spring coat)
- Rain coat & pants
- Warm hat (toque, etc)
- Set of gloves (for night fire time)
- Running shoes
- Flashlight
- Sleeping bag (good to -10)
- Pillow (travel size)
- Passport & Birth Certificate/ Proof of Cdn. Citizenship if landed immigrant
- Photo ID
- Sun glasses
- Large garbage bag for dirty/wet laundry
- Fanny Pack
- Spending money
- Water Bottle
- Shower bag

THINGS TO NOTE:

- ❑ Please keep make-up to an absolute minimum.
- ❑ No electricity in Mexico
- ❑ There is a place to use a shower bag (you supply, check out MEC) and shower
- ❑ Pants and t-shirts are required on the worksite, no shorts, tank tops or sandals
- ❑ Each person is permitted one duffle bag (not a hockey bag) and one small back pack as carry on as space is limited.
 - Check Air Canada website for dimensions/weight of bag
 - When you check you will notice it says 2 bags. We won't have room in the vans for everyone to bring 2 bags, and we'll need some people to bring equipment as their 2nd bag.

PACKING TIPS:

- ❑ Pack toiletries in a large make-up bag
- ❑ Pack underwear and socks in a large zip lock bag for easy access
- ❑ Wear layers to bed instead of packing additional blankets

THINGS INCLUDED IN MEXICO:

- Camping chair
- Mattress
- Lantern (1 per tent)
- All cooking stuff
- Toilet paper