

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Mexico Mission 2023

### April 9-15

**How do we get to Mexico?** We travel in personal vehicles, driving from LAUMC to San Diego on Sunday (after Easter Sunrise service), and crossing the border on Monday. In addition to carrying passengers, the vehicles carry our camping and personal gear and our building tools and equipment (except those that we rent in Mexico).

**Who drives?** Each vehicle has a designated driver and a backup driver. These individuals will be assigned close to the departure date. Every adult over 25 should be prepared to drive, so bring your driver's license and driving glasses.

**Do we need passports?** Yes, each person needs to have a passport or passport card.

**Is it safe?** AMOR Ministries has been working in Mexico for over 30 years and has developed excellent relationships with the local government, police and communities they serve. We will be with AMOR Ministries representatives all the time we are in Mexico. The Amor team keeps a close eye on the national and political scene along with the latest weather conditions. In the event of an emergency or weather condition that indicates groups should leave Mexico, group leaders will be informed and an established evacuation plan will be implemented. You can read more about AMOR's specific safety policies and procedures at: <http://www.amor.org/safety>.

**Do we need shots?** Travel to Mexico does not require extra immunizations. Our mission, however, requires a current tetanus shot. Check with your own health provider for other recommendations.

**How far will we be from the border? How far will we camp from our building site?** Our campsite is in Amor's "Hacienda Camp" located between Tijuana and Tecate, about 16 miles east of the border crossing at Otay Mesa. Our building sites will probably be 20-30 minutes from the campsite. For going home, we often use the Tecate border crossing, about 14 miles from the campground.

**What is the camping facility like?** Imagine a gravel parking lot, or large grassy field. No tables, a few trees, no electricity, no running water. Port-a-potties are kept extremely clean, and an enclosure is provided for bucket and SunShower showers. Potable (drinking) water is provided.

**What is the LAUMC camp set-up like?** Each family or set of tent-mates brings and sets up their own tent in an area around our campfire area. Our camping chairs around the campfire become the living room.

**What about drinking water?** AMOR Ministries provides purified water at camp for drinking. Large water coolers for each building site are provided by La Cocina for us to take with us. Each team member must bring their own insulated ½ gallon water bottle. We drink one-two gallons of water each day to keep healthy and hydrated.

**What about showers?** We fill our SunShowers (or buckets) with local water provided by AMOR. It is ***not*** drinking water so don't brush your teeth with it, or shower with your mouth open! AMOR provides about 2 gallons per person per day for showering. Believe it or not, it is enough for an adult with long hair to clean up quite nicely.

**What about food?** We will eat delicious meals prepared by the La Cocina program offered by AMOR Ministries that also employs local workers. Most special dietary needs can be accommodated. Work-site snacks are provided each morning and afternoon. We will have vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. You need to tell us about any special food needs.