



Covenant Presbyterian Church Short-Term Missions 2012

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest . . . You did not choose me but I chose you, to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." (Jesus Christ)

"Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation . . . Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us." (the apostle Paul)

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." (Jim Elliot)

Several short-term mission opportunities are before you once again. God has used these trips mightily in the past. Because He is mighty and because He is faithful, we can expect Him to do great things this year. He will work both in those ministered to and in the ministers themselves. Count it a privilege to pray about what part God may be calling you to play in this endeavor. Seek His face, search your heart, and talk to a brother/sister in Christ in considering these possibilities. In the end, He will call you to go or He will call you to stay. He will call . . . will you be faithful to listen and obey? Below are some details that may help you in your decision.

WHY

1. To proclaim the glorious gospel of grace to a population where only a small percentage are evangelical Christians.
2. To know the joy of sacrifice that, through our labor, lost rebels might know and worship Him.
3. To serve our sister churches around the world by assisting these churches in proclaiming the Gospel, meeting physical needs, serving ongoing ministries, and in any other way the Lord may bring to our attention.
4. To experience first-hand the beauty of the body of Christ as we serve our brethren and as they serve us.
5. To encourage and build up the brethren by our service, worship, and fellowship.
6. To glorify God as we offer our bodies (time, talents, and treasure) a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to Him, which is our spiritual worship.

WHO

These opportunities are open to any Covenant attendees who have demonstrated the maturity and willingness to serve on a short-term mission trip. If there is a need to limit the number of people going, priority will be given to members. The Oaxaca trip is open to all who have completed 9th grade and up. The Renew trip is open to all middle and high school students. We will also need some adult chaperones for this trip.

WHERE? WHAT? WHEN? HOW?

1. Mexico—Oaxaca

Will take place July 6-17 (subject to change but will be in July). The purpose of this trip will be to serve alongside the mission work of a presbytery in Oaxaca helping to lead VBS, community outreach, and physical service projects. The Oaxaca group will fly in and out of Mexico City or Oaxaca City and will travel by bus to their mission site in the village of San Bartolome, a nearby village of Guilove, and another nearby village of Rio Santa Cruz.. The focus of our work in these villages will be outreach, mercy ministry, and adult and children's discipleship. The expected cost of the trip is \$1,100. The contact persons are Tim Frost (433-3051) and Sandy or Jacinto Hernandez (433-3548).

2. Renew, Harrisonburg (www.renewcamp.org)

Will take place June 10-15 here in Harrisonburg. This trip is for middle and high school students from several local churches who will stay overnight at Harrisonburg High School and serve on practical service projects at homes and local non-profit organizations throughout the city each day. Evenings will include high-energy services and highlighted fun such as a gym night at UREC (JMU), skating at Funky's Skate Center, and swimming at Ashby Pool and more. There are several benefits to this trip including investing in our community, connecting with Christians from other churches and schools, and providing practical ways to use and discover gifts God has given us. The expected cost is \$150. Contact Tim Frost (433-3051) for more information.

What You Can Expect: (level of difficulty: 1 = low, 5 = high)

Trip	Language Barrier	Physical Rigor	Risk of Illness	Lack of Luxuries	Travel Time	Immunization Required	Total Expected Cost
1. Oaxaca, Mexico	4	5	4	5	5	4	\$1,100
2. Renew	1	3	1	1	1	1	\$150

Each of these teams will have mandatory prefield meetings at least once a month. Team members can also expect to participate in one to two fund-raisers to help with the cost of the trip. It will be the responsibility of each team member to raise their own funds for these trips. Team fundraisers and support letters should help with the fundraising but the responsibility will fall on each individual. For Oaxaca there will be payment installments. Failure to make a payment results in removal from the team. If the funds are not raised, you will not be permitted to go. Additional costs for immunizations and passports (\$100 or more) can be expected. These can be substantial. No money will be refunded at any point. All funds raised will go toward the costs of the trip or needs on site.

The Oaxaca application is due to the church office before 4 p.m. Tuesday, January 31, 2012. Late applications will not be accepted.

The Renew application is due to the church office before 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, 2012.

The leaders of these teams reserve the right to interview, select, and limit the number of participants.

***If you are seriously planning to go on the Oaxaca trip, you need to consider getting a passport as soon as possible as the passport process can take about six months.**

Covenant Short-Term Missions 2012 Application

Deadlines: Oaxaca - Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 4 p.m. at the church office
Renew – Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 4 p.m. at the church office

Name: _____ Age: _____ Birth date: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email address: _____

If under 18, please give parent's email address: _____

Church you attend: _____ Member: ___Yes ___No

Non-family members who are 18 or older to contact as references:

Name	Mailing Address	Phone	Relationship

<p>a. Mexico - Oaxaca _____</p> <p>b. Renew, Harrisonburg _____</p>	<p>Please rank your top choice, placing a "1" beside your top choice. (If you are only considering one trip, do not put a #2. If willing to consider both, place a #1 and #2.) The team leaders reserve the freedom to place applicants with the best fit.</p>
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1. Please attach a page with your personal testimony: how you came to know Christ as Savior and Lord; what it means that He is your Savior and Lord; and what areas you've grown in as a Christian. Try to keep it to 300 words or less. (If you are a returnee, please share with us areas where God is currently at work in your life.)
2. What are some of the primary reasons you want to go on a project? If a returnee, why do you want to return?
3. What gifts has God given you that He may use in this particular project setting?
4. How are you currently using those gifts?
5. How would you describe your devotional life?
6. In what areas of your life have you seen growth over the last few years?
7. Are you conscious of any habitual, besetting, and/or unrepentant sin in your life at this time? ___Yes ___No
 If yes, please call Jacinto or Sandy Hernandez (433-3051) or Tim Frost (433-3051).

NOTE: Please know that these applications will be reviewed by the trip leaders and names will be submitted to the Session for final approval.

For Applicants 15 years or older

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Please Print

The information on this form is confidential with the goals of protecting our children and shepherding an applicant as appropriate. This application will be seen by one designated elder appointed by the session. In some instances, this elder may share information with the session if the elder believes a child may be at risk. Note: answering 'yes' to any of the questions below does not necessarily disqualify you as a candidate but will provide an opportunity for shepherding if necessary.

Last Name	First	Middle	Maiden	Social Security Number
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Street Address	City	State	Zip Code
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1. Have you ever been convicted of a crime against another person or are you the subject of pending charges of any crime against another person?

Yes No

If yes or pending, please explain: _____

2. Have you ever been accused of sexual abuse towards someone under 18 years old? Sexual abuse is defined as any contact or interaction (visual, verbal, or psychological) between a child/adolescent and an adult when the child/adolescent is being used for the sexual arousal, molestation, or gratification of the perpetrator or any other person (Allender, The Wounded Heart, Navpress, 1993).

Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

3. Have you ever been accused of or been the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse or neglect?

Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

4. Do you currently or have you ever intentionally looked at child pornography?

Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

5. Do you struggle with knowing appropriate physical or emotional boundaries with children?

Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Applicant signature required on reverse side; also include signature of parent or legal guardian if applicant is under 18 years of age.

Before submitting, FOLD ↑ to retain confidentiality.

I hereby affirm that the information provided on this form is true and complete. I understand that the information is subject to verification.

Name (please print)

Signature

Date

Signature of parent or legal guardian of applicant under 18 years

Date

Before submitting, FOLD HERE ↓ to retain confidentiality.
