



IPC Mission Trip Application
Chiapas, Mexico Spring Break: March 21-29, 2020
Application Deadline: November 30, 2019

Our Core Values: The Global Missions Ministry of IPC seeks to:

- Provide opportunities for as many IPC members as possible to participate in God's mission in the United States and around the world
- Develop and nurture ongoing partnerships with churches and ministries around the world
- Facilitate lasting transformation in the lives of trip participants through faith formation, cross-cultural experience, and meaningful work

Basic Information:

What: Manual labor to support the current phase of church building, worship with local community on Sunday, stay with Salvador and Irma de la Torre at their lovely mission guest houses.

When: Saturday, March 21 - Sunday, March 29th

Where: Chiapas is in rural, southern Mexico. We will travel from Bham to Mexico City to Palenque.

Why: IPC has a history of international mission work with the de la Torres. They have built a comfortable home with guest houses for mission teams so that they can support Irma's hometown community plant churches in the area through their ministry with Medical Missions, Inc.

Trip Leader: Brian Lays

Additional Information:

Participants should expect to work hard alongside locals in building efforts. You will receive abundant hospitality and be extremely well fed! Each evening the team will share experiences and discuss how God is at work in this community and within the group. Excursions may include very inexpensive but enjoyable trips to waterfalls and/or Mayan ruins.

Cost

The approximate cost of this trip should be around \$1,000 per person. The biggest variable is airfare, which is higher during Spring Break and the number of persons sharing the hotel room in Mexico City.

- Airfare, meals during travel, hotel in Mexico City on the return leg of travel and any excursions will be paid by each participant (i.e. expenses unrelated to the IPC Foundation grants).*
- Local transportation, housing and meals in Chiapas and project supplies are subsidized by the IPC Foundation's grant for mission trips. These costs, excluding project supplies, are \$100/per day per person.

If this is a subsidy you are willing to forego, in part or in whole, your subsidy will be allotted to a scholarship/need-based fund for those who cannot otherwise afford to participate in an IPC mission trip.

If you prefer to waive your subsidy, please check this box:

Scholarship money may be available should the cost of the trip create a financial hardship for your family. Please check the box below if you would like the trip leader to contact you with more information about scholarship opportunities.

I would like more information about scholarship opportunities for this trip.

(* Note: Some portions of the trip cost may be tax deductible. Check with your accountant.)

Payment

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is due *no later than* 14 days after your application has been accepted and notice of this acceptance has been communicated to the applicant.

The remaining balance for this trip is due by December 31st, 2019

*Note: Checks should be made payable to IPC. (This makes them tax-deductible!)

I understand that my initial deposit for this mission trip is non-refundable once non-refundable advanced purchases, such as supplies, accommodation, or plane tickets, have been booked, and that I will be responsible to pay the remaining balance for this trip after it is determined, by the deadlines indicated on this application.

About you:

Name _____

Age _____

Gender _____

Email _____

Phone # _____

Have you ever been on a previous IPC mission trip?

Yes No

If yes, which ones? Please list:

Have you ever been on a mission trip with another church or organization?

Yes No

If so, where and with whom did you travel? Please list:

Are you willing to participate in fundraising for yourself or on behalf of the group?

Yes No

Are you willing to participate in any meetings with the mission team prior to the trip and following the trip, and complete any assignments related to these meetings?

Yes No

Are you willing to share stories from this trip with other members of IPC when you return, whether in worship, articles in *The Window*, or other means?

Yes No

Trip Details and Expectations

Participants on IPC mission trips are expected to participate, to the best of their ability, in all aspects of the trip, including preparation, throughout the trip, and debriefing sessions upon return.

Physical requirements on this trip

Participants should be physically able to travel from Birmingham to Mexico City (this will not be a direct flight) and from Mexico City to Palenque followed by 1 hour ride in a comfortable, air conditioned mini bus to our host location. Work days will begin after a hearty breakfast and may include any manner of unskilled labor which will be done outdoors in the heat. Shade and bottled water are readily available and under no conditions is anyone expected to work beyond their capacity. All food is prepared with great care and poses no health concerns. Dietary concerns should be discussed with the trip leader prior to making a deposit.

Questions for Reflection

Why do you want to participate in this mission trip?

Would you consider taking on a leadership role on this trip? If so, what leadership areas do you have to offer?
Please check all that apply:

Will you blog and make your posts public for those at home to follow throughout the trip?

Yes No

Will you be responsible for taking contextually appropriate photos to share on IPC's website?

Yes No

Can you play any instruments?

Yes No

Are you willing to lead or help prepare for worship on the trip, if applicable?

Yes No

Will you coordinate devotionals?

Yes No

Would you arrange or host a group gathering before or after the trip?

Yes No

Will you collect and organize supplies prior to the trip, according to the needs of the trip?

Yes No

Would you be willing to plan games or ice-breakers during free time on the trip?

Yes No

Please list other ways you might take a leadership role on this trip:

Do you have any particular skills and passions you'd like to use on this trip?

What impact do you think you can have on this trip?

Selection Criteria

Applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. If we have more applications than spots available on the trip, selection criteria will include the following considerations:

- Are there limitations that keep someone from taking another such trip again?
 - E.g. starting a new job, health concerns, graduating youth group, etc.
- Previous participation in mission trips
- IPC membership or involvement

I have read and understand the information and expectations listed above: Yes No

Name

Date

Completed applications may be submitted to the Rev. Brian Lays in the church office or by email to blays@ipc-usa.org.

IPC Mission Trip Covenant

Our Core Values: The Global Missions Ministry of IPC seeks to:

- Develop and nurture ongoing partnerships with churches and ministries around the world
- Facilitate lasting transformation in the lives of trip participants through faith formation, cross-cultural experience, and meaningful work

Towards these ends, I understand that the following elements are crucial to the effectiveness, quality, and safety of our team together. As a member of the team, I agree to:

1. Live my life and conduct myself in a way that brings glory to God.
2. Prepare diligently and prayerfully for my responsibilities on the team. I will make it a priority to attend all preparation meetings and complete all assignments designed to prepare me for the trip.
3. Remember that I am a guest participating at the invitation of the hosting country and/or ministry.
4. Remember that I have come to learn, not teach. I may encounter procedures that I feel are inefficient or attitudes that I find closed minded. I'll resist the temptation to inform our hosts about "how we do things." Instead, I'll be open to learning other people's methods and ideas.
5. Respect the host's view of Christianity. I recognize that Christianity has many faces throughout the world, and the purpose of this trip is to witness and experience faith lived out in a new setting.
6. Develop and maintain a servant's attitude toward all nations and my teammates.
7. Respect my team leader(s) and his/her/their decisions.
8. Refrain from gossip. I may be surprised how each team member will blossom when freed from the concern that others may be passing judgment.
9. Refrain from complaining. I know that travel can present numerous unexpected and undesired circumstances, but the rewards of overcoming such circumstances are many. I'll try to be creative and supportive.
10. Respect the work that is going on in the church, agency, or person(s) that we are working with. I realize that our team is here for just a short while, but that the established ministry is there for the long term. I will respect their knowledge, insight and instructions.
11. Refrain from negative political comments or hostile discussions concerning our host country's politics or the politics in my country, including controversial news topics and subjects.
12. Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships. If my spouse or significant other is on the team, we will make every effort to interact with all members of the team, not just one another.
13. Refrain from any activity that could be construed as romantic interest toward a national or affiliated with Independent Presbyterian Church. I will not use this trip as an opportunity to seek out a romantic relationship. I realize certain activities that may seem innocent in my own culture may be inappropriate in others.
14. Respect and conform to the standards established for this trip regarding the consumption of alcohol. At the discretion of the trip leader, there may be certain circumstances in which it is appropriate to drink alcohol in moderation. Otherwise, I will refrain from consuming alcohol on the trip.

By signing below, I hereby understand that the team leader(s) and Independent Presbyterian Church reserve the right to take the necessary action if I do not comply with this team covenant agreement.

Print Name

Signature

Date

**Note: this covenant is adapted, sometimes verbatim, from that of Heart's Cry Children's Ministry.*