



AMIGO FIEL

A Ministry of Equipping the Saints

Team Member Guide

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“But sanctify the Lord God in your heart and always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you; do this with meekness and fear.” ~1 Peter 3:15

Dear Missionary,

Amigo Fiel, a ministry of Equipping the Saints is a non-denominational Christian ministry purposefully designed to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Mexican community. Our priority is to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the local community. In addition to serving the Mexican people, Amigo Fiel provides our Christian brothers and sisters in the United States with the unique opportunity to strengthen their faith through participation in short-term missions.

Throughout the trip, your group will share Christ’s love with the people of Mexico. Activities that you will participate in include feeding and teaching children at our Amigo Fiel afternoon program, working on construction projects that minister to the needs of the local community and church members, and evangelizing to the public.

In order to best accomplish these goals of ministering to the community here, we have designed a set of guidelines for you and your team to follow while in Mexico. The Amigo Fiel leadership requires that you read and apply these rules and guidelines to maintain safety, Christian integrity, and effective ministry as you serve in a foreign setting. Excellence must be our standard for ministry. Remember 1 Peter 2:12 which says:

“Live such good lives among the pagans that though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.”

In His service,

Carlos Garcia
Pastor and Missions Director

Spiritual Preparation

In a very short while, you will be embark on the adventure of a lifetime. We have great expectations of what God will do in and through you as you take the Gospel to the people of Mexico. Remember, the trip doesn't start when you arrive in Mexico, it begins now! Don't waste any time becoming spiritually prepared. Let the gift that God has given you be fanned into a raging flame for Jesus. Here are some ways you can begin preparing:

1. Get serious about your personal time with God. Make it a priority! You can't conjure up a relationship with God. It only comes as you spend time with him. Enjoy His presence daily. Please read Psalm 139:23-24 and II Timothy 3:16-17.
2. Devote yourself to prayer. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "Pray without ceasing." Consider finding a prayer partner to pray with you before the trip and while on the trip. Find someone whom you can stay accountable to. Here are a few prayer requests that will help prepare you for your time in Mexico. Pray for:
 - Compassion for the people of Mexico. Ask God to give you a genuine burden for them. Read Matthew 9:36-38.
 - Unity within your team. Read Romans 15:5-6.
 - Divine appointments to share the Gospel.
 - Personal preparation for the ministry you will be a part of.
 - The Mexican people we meet and minister to, have open hearts and minds to the Truth.
 - Memorization of select Bible verses in Spanish that will help you to share the Gospel with the people you meet.
 - Health and safety for you and your team members.
 - Direction and wisdom for your leaders and the leaders of Amigo Fiel in Mexico.

May God's grace be upon you as you prepare for a mission experience that will change your life, as well as the lives of others. We pray that God moves in your life while serving in Mexico, such that you will never settle for anything less than an all out walk with Jesus. We pray, also, that God will use you to reach a lost world, and spur you on to take your place in God's master plan for this lifetime.

Packing List:

Passport or Birth Certificate and Picture I.D. (Please note that after July 1, 2008, passports will be required to cross the Mexican/American border.)
Bible
Clothing (see guidelines)
Pen and journal/notebook
Camera and film
Battery powered alarm clock
Waterless hand sanitizer
Baby wipes
Sunglasses
Sunscreen
Insect repellent (not needed on winter trips)
Water bottle
Money (Bring small bills as there will be opportunities to shop at the market. Virtually all vendors accept US dollars.)
Toiletries (shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
Towel
Washcloth
Sleeping bag and pillow (For summer trip you may want to bring just a set of sheets and a light blanket)

Clothing Guidelines:

1. When packing, please keep in mind that there is no laundry facility available for your use. You need to bring enough clothes to last you the length of your trip
2. Please pack light! Casual clothes are best. Please pack accordingly: May through September are hot months but can be cool in the evenings. October through April months are usually warm during the day but get cold at night.
3. You need to bring clothes to wear at work project sites that you don't mind getting dirt and paint on. You will also need to have clothes that you keep clean to wear for outreach and evangelism.

4. Please wear modest clothes for cultural and ministry purposes. You do not want to become a distraction to your fellow team members or the people you are ministering to.

Please use the following guidelines for appropriate dress attire and what to bring:

Shirts

- o Please do not bring shirts that have writing on them (This includes advertising of alcohol, tobacco, secular bands or any general statements.)
- o No spaghetti strap tank tops or cropped shirts
- o No tight fitting shirts
- o For men, shirts will be required at all times

Pants or Jeans

- o No tight fitting or stretch jeans

Shorts

- o Shorts can only be worn during free time and not at work projects and outreaches
- o Must be no shorter than just above the knee
- o No tight fitting shorts

Pajamas

- o For wearing in dorm room only

Undergarments

Shoes

- o One pair for work project sites
- o One pair for all other ministries
- o Sandals – Ones with straps only (Cannot be worn at work project sites)
- o Flip Flops (For shower and around base only)

Sweatshirt or Jacket

- o For non-summer months and for the occasional cool evening in the summer
- o Please do not bring shirts that have writing on them (This includes advertising of alcohol, tobacco, secular bands or any general statements.)

Swim clothes – Check with your team leader to determine whether one is needed

- o Girls: no two piece swim suits or one-piece that is too revealing
- o Men: no Speedos

Rules for Mission Base

- Do not drink water from any faucets. It is unsafe and can make you sick. Use bottled water only. There is purified water available in the water cooler outside.
- Drink plenty of water. Carry a water bottle with you everywhere you go. Put your name on it and keep with you the entire time you are here.
- Do not flush any paper products including toilet paper and hygiene products down the toilet. The Mexican sewer system is not designed to handle it.
- Brush your teeth at the bathroom sinks only. Do not spit toothpaste outside. It attracts flies.
- The kitchen and office are for staff use only. Please do not go into either area unless you have been requested to by staff.
- The refrigerator and freezer are not available for team use. The only exception is for medicine that requires refrigeration.
- Please take good care of the property. Do not sit on tables or put feet up on tables or walls. Please do not climb the trees or climb over railings. Please do not play ball in the courtyard.
- Please do not rearrange any of the furniture. This includes the tables and benches in dining hall, the metal tables and chairs outside, and the bunk beds in the dorm rooms.
- Please do not leave any of your belongings in the dining room, outside, or in any of the bathrooms.
- No boys in the girl's dorm room or on their balcony, and no girls in the boy's dorm room or on their balcony.
- Please keep the dorm rooms and bathrooms clean. Keep your belonging on or under your bunk.
- Because of the high cost of heating water, please keep your shower time to a maximum of five minutes. If you are with a large group, your leader will develop a schedule for taking showers.

- No food or beverages (except water) are allowed in the dorm room. If you brought snacks, you can keep them in your suitcase as long as they are in a sealed container.
- Always wear some type of hard sole footwear anywhere at the base except in the dorm rooms.
- Shorts must be no shorter than just above the knee. Do not wear clothing that is too revealing.
- Please do not eat any food from the local stands unless it has been approved by staff. The food could be contaminated and make you very sick.
- Please do not have any interaction with any local persons of the opposite sex. If you want to talk with someone, make sure you have someone of that sex with you.
- You must stay in groups of at least three and have your leader's permission to leave the base compound. Your leader should know where you are at all times.
- Do not touch any dogs or cats outside the base.
- You will be notified of the time for lights out. Lights out means that you are in your bunk at that time and all lights are out.

If you have any questions or needs, please ask any of the staff, and we will be happy to help you in any way we can.

Please understand that these rules apply to everyone whether you are a team member or a team leader. Enjoy your stay here at the mission base.

Medical History and Release of Liability Form

Please mark any of the following that you have: (C- Current, P- Past, N- Never)

Diabetes: _____ Eating Disorder: _____ Respiratory Problems: _____
Seizures: _____ Fainting Spells: _____ Food Allergies: _____
Migraines: _____ Psychiatric Care: _____ Allergies to Meds: _____
Other: _____ Please Describe: _____

Please explain any of the above whether current or past: _____

Please list any special needs or problems that may arise: _____

Are you currently taking medications? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please list and explain: _____

PLEASE BE SURE YOU ARE CURRENT ON ALL SHOTS AND IMMUNIZATIONS!

Emergency Contact Info: Name _____
Relationship _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____

Release of Liability:

“Amigo Fiel”, a ministry of “Equipping the Saints” desires to provide a safe and enjoyable time for all participants, but accidents can still happen. I/We understand that there are risks and dangers involved with participation in “out of the country” trips and their associated activities. In consideration of myself/wife/children being allowed to participate in this event, I/we agree to hold harmless to “Equipping the Saints”, its affiliated organizations, employees, agents, and representatives, including volunteer and other drivers, from any and all claims arising from my family’s participation. The release agreement does not apply to claims of intentional (criminal) misconduct or gross negligence by “Equipping the Saints”, its employees, or volunteers. If such circumstances are proved in a court of law, I/we acknowledge and agree that “Equipping the Saints” can assume no financial liability beyond its actual liability insurance policy in force.

In case of accident, illness, or other emergency, I/we give permission for “Equipping the Saints” staff to call paramedics or any licensed physician or dentist. If a life-threatening emergency exists, I/we give permission for “Equipping the Saints” staff to immediately call the paramedics.

I/We authorize and consent to any x-ray examination, anesthetic, medical, dental, or surgical diagnosis or treatment, and hospital care, which best judgment of licensed physician or dentist, is deemed advisable. I/we agree to assume the financial responsibility for expenses incurred as a result of those services being provided. I/ we also agree to be financially responsible for emergency medical transportation.

I have read the above information and have answered the questions to my best knowledge. I release “Equipping the Saints”, its officer, employees, representatives, and volunteers from all liability for personal injury including death, as well as all property damage or loss arising out of my family’s participation in this trip.

Father/ Guardian’s signature and Date

Mother/ Guardian’s signature and Date

Name(s) of children printed