

# MEXICO OUTREACH UNSHAKEABLE

## **Village Christian High School Communication and Emergency Plan Mexicali Outreach Project | April 15-22, 2011**

The purpose of this information is to address safety issues and our plans in case of an emergency while we are in Mexicali. Our plan addresses what we will do if a participant needs medical attention, how we will operate in case we need to come across the border prematurely, and how we will communicate with our families back home during the week. It is our hope that this information will answer most of your questions. Feel free to contact the Spiritual Life office with other concerns or questions.

### **1. How will we communicate with our families back home, especially in an emergency?**

- a. Each student has the ability to bring their personal cell phone; however, charging batteries in Mexicali is not possible. It might be a responsible thing for each family to plan for a phone call once we are settled in Base Camp on our first day in Mexico, and then a phone call once we have crossed back into the U.S. at the end of the week. Shutting the phones off between these times is recommended. To the best of our ability, the *VCS Mexicali Team* Facebook page [[facebook.com/vcsmexicaliteam](https://www.facebook.com/vcsmexicaliteam)] will be updated on a daily basis for those back home to view and catch up on the good news of what is happening back at camp.
- b. A phone chain will be set up and one group of parents will be responsible to contact another group of parents to communicate any specific emergency needs. In simple terms, 10 families will be given 10 other families to call, thus communicating to the approximately 100 families that will be going to the Mexicali Outreach this year. You can expect to receive a phone call if any emergency or evacuation plan has been put in place. You can also expect a phone call if your son or daughter is taken to the Mexicali Clinic or across the border to the El Centro Regional Medical Center.

### **2. What is the plan for any person who needs medical attention?**

We will follow these 4 steps in taking care of any person who needs medical attention.

- a. We will have two people on our team that have as their main focus the first aid of all team members. They are both qualified to help in the initial stages of need, one being an EMT, and the other a nursing school student. These two will be available as the first response to a medical need.
- b. There is a Nurse's station at the campsite that is open 24/7 with qualified nurses and P.A.'s who will be able to help in time of need and will recommend what steps to take if

further treatment is necessary. Our medical team will be in regular communication with the Nurse's Station.

- c. There is a Clinic in Mexicali that is open to us. It is 12 miles from camp and will be open 24/7 with Dr. Angel Rivas available at all times. He is a fine Christian man who has had a relationship with the Mexico Outreach program for many years.
- d. If more attention is needed, we will transport the team member to the El Centro Regional Medical Center in El Centro. In 25 years of serving, we have only gone to this hospital 3 times. The Medical Center is located at 1415 Ross Avenue, El Centro, CA 92243 (760)-339-7100. <http://www.ecrhc.org>

### **3. What is the plan that Azusa Pacific University/Mexicali Outreach and Village Christian School has put in place in case the need for evacuation arises?**

- a. The Village Christian School staff is frequently trained in how to respond to campus emergencies and is ready to keep the safety and protection of students our highest priority. Our adult leaders will stay with their students in any emergency situation and will follow our prescribed communication protocol to insure safety and collaboration with parents.
- b. It is necessary for each school or church to establish their own unique meeting point back in California, and for each group vehicle and driver, along with the students involved, to be able to communicate with each other while an evacuation is taking place. If the need for evacuation arises, Bill MacPhee and Dean Lagasse, in consultation with Mexicali Outreach leadership, will supervise all Village Christian School team members and adult leaders as we leave Mexico and meet at the parking lot of the Wal-Mart Super Center in Calexico. All group leaders and drivers will establish they have all group members present before moving to the border. The Wal-Mart is located at 2540 Rockwood, Calexico, Ca 92231, just north of the California/Mexican border, in California.
- c. The driver of each bus will have Nextel communication devices and will be able to communicate, both with each other, but also with our key contacts back on the Village Christian campus. Additionally, those driving trucks and vans will have their cell phones activated to be able to call out of Mexico and maintain communication with the rest of the team.

The key contact onsite at Village Christian School for critical information in the event of a natural disaster, crisis, or serious injury is: Maria Cowell, Communications Coordinator at VCS. Maria will provide families with the most accurate and current emergency information from our VCS Mexicali team, through the phone tree, the VCS website, and on campus.

### **4. How will the students be supervised? How many adult leaders will be taking part in this year's Mexicali trip?**

- a. Students are always in a group setting, whether at Base Camp, at the Church site, taking showers, or at the local Taco stand.

- b. The ratio of students to adult leaders is 4 to 1. That is one leader for every 4 students.
- c. Mexico Outreach provides security at our Base Camp 24 hours a day. There will never be a time that the camp is without a team of security members. Our association with the local police department will also provide security at night. (Many of these officers are followers of Christ!)
- d. The local government affirms the importance of the Mexico Outreach experience, what it does for the local community, and is extremely involved and supportive of our mission. Often, the Mayor of Mexicali has come to our Base Camp to speak to the students about how meaningful our investment is to the Mexican people.

Feel free to contact Bill MacPhee [[billm@villagechristian.org](mailto:billm@villagechristian.org)] in the Spiritual Life office or Dean Lagasse [[deanl@villagechristian.org](mailto:deanl@villagechristian.org)] at Village Christian School with other questions or concerns.

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