



Family-Oriented Mission Trip - Spring Break 2010

What: A short-term family-oriented mission trip involving a variety of work and ministry opportunities.

When: March 25 – April 5, 2010 (Spring Break), Training Weekend is TBA

Where: Tepic, Mexico

Why: To serve God through missions work

Who: Families (but everyone is welcome), approx. 20-30 people

Venture Teams International is excited to offer new short-term mission AdVentures geared specifically for families. Too often we hear parents returning from exciting and satisfying mission trips only to say how they wished their children had the same opportunity...the opportunity to experience a foreign culture and serve God, while demonstrating Christ's love in a practical way.

VTI's Family AdVenture has teamed, once again, with La Fuente Ministries in Tepic, Mexico. Specific-ally, we'll be situated in the mountainous region of Nayarit State approximately 160 km north of Puerto Vallarta. Far from the tourist throng, Tepic is a city of approx. half a million people. It exists mainly as a business hub for the state, but it is also a gathering place for the Huichol Indians who live in the nearby Sierra Madre Mountains.

Our ministry partners host mission teams who join together in unity and purpose, giving themselves for service to the Lord in a unique cross-cultural environment. These teams go to Mexico and stay at one of their ministry sites for a week and sometimes more. Every team member, young and old, is involved both spiritually and physically, and through their efforts, the people of Mexico, as well as each team member, is blessed. **The experience is life-changing!**

The Lord is blessing the people of Mexico in special ways, and each team member will undoubtedly gain significant spiritual insight and personal growth through their experiences in Tepic!

While spending a week in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico may sound like an ideal vacation to some, we can assure you that this will be a week of service and servanthood.

Our team will be involved in a variety of activities; helping to build and maintain medical clinics or churches in the town, running half-day events for the area's children, serving pancake breakfasts, distributing clothing and toys, and ministering in the local hospital, to name a few. Our specific ministries will be confirmed as we get closer to our date of arrival.

For some people, this trip will be an opportunity to experience another culture. For others, it is the chance to share the gospel of Christ, while others may hope that it will make them, (and their children) more mindful of the good fortune we enjoy here in Canada. **Family AdVenture** will hopefully make us all more appreciative of others in the world. It will be a time to leave our comfort zones by exploring the unknown, if just for a short while.

Family AdVenture provides Christian families with a viable and rewarding alternative to the usual family vacation. The ultimate reason for making this trip, however, is that we are all called to be servants of God and each other. **What better way to demonstrate this principle to our children!** We may not change the world in twelve days, but if we demonstrate, practically, Christ's love to people in another land, the **AdVenture** will be a big success!

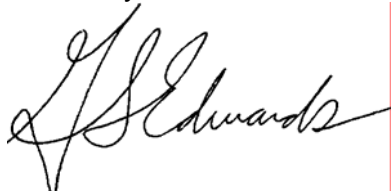
Attached to this letter, you will find some forms (lots of them!) we require in order to get you started on your *Family AdVenture* to Mexico. **Print them out, complete them as thoroughly as possible and mail them to our office.**

Application to *Family AdVenture* is a two-stage process. First, we need your information and pertinent details, including references. Secondly, once your application has been approved by our selection committee, we will contact you and request that your deposit be forwarded to us as soon as possible so that we can get your flights booked. Unfortunately, when we book the flights, many airlines require full payment immediately, therefore we require \$1000 per person when your application is sent in. The remainder of the costs will need to be forwarded to us by February 15, 2010.

You should know that once approved, should you choose to withdraw from the trip, a \$100 Application Fee, along with any hard costs involved in flight cancellations, will be deducted from your deposit.

We look forward to our time together serving God and changing lives...forever!

Sincerely,



Gary Edwards
Family AdVenture Coordinator
Venture Teams International
#3A – 3023 – 21 St. NE
Calgary, AB T2E 7T1
(403) 777-2970
www.vti.ca





Proposed Itinerary

March 25 - Fly to Puerto Vallarta then drive to Tepic
March 25 to April 2 - Mexico Ministry
April 2 - Drive to Nuevo Vallarta
April 2 – “Wind-down” at a resort in Nuevo Vallarta
April 5 - Fly Home or extend your stay in Puerto Vallarta

Cost

Costs include airfare from Calgary, taxes, transfers, training, food, accommodations, transportation, ministry supplies & expenses
\$2250 CDN*

Ministry Activities

Construction Projects

Area missionaries have projects already set up. We would assist in whatever building/maintenance projects are in progress, but most likely would be involved in building houses for needy families. If team members have specific construction skills, please advise us so that we can utilize your abilities most effectively.

Ministry Projects

Most teams participate in a half-day children’s program, however, there are other outreach projects such as tract and Bible distribution, hospital ministry, clothing and toy distribution, pancake breakfasts and the showing of Christian films and videos.

Other outreach projects such as drama, music, sports and recreation are also possibilities.

*Does not cover food expenses during the Wind-down at the resort in Puerto Vallarta. Costs are based on a 50% discount on room rates at the resort. There may be additional costs at the resort depending on the size of your family and ages of family members. For example, families consisting of more than four will need to upgrade to a one or two bedroom unit. Families staying in the same unit with children over the age of 12 will incur additional costs as stipulated by the resort, since they are considered “adults” and are billed accordingly.

Venture Teams International

#3a, 3023 – 21 Street N.E. Calgary, AB T2E 7T1
(403) 777-2970 Fax: (403) 777-2973 Email: info@vti.ca Website: vti.ca



Application for Family AdVenture 2010 – Tepic, Mexico

Participant Information (One per person)

Name (as shown on passport)

Surname _____ Full Given Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

E-mail _____ Fax # _____

Courier address (if different than above)

Street address (no P.O. Box #) _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Travel Documents

Date of Birth (D/M/Y) ____/____/____.

Do you have a passport? YES NO

*If not, one will need to be obtained prior to trip.

If yes, country of issue _____ Date of Expiry _____
(Date of expiry must be a minimum of 6 months after your scheduled return date)

Do you have a criminal record? YES NO

*For Immigration purposes only

Educational Information

List any degrees, diplomas, certificates or special training that you have attained (i.e. first aid, music, construction-related)

Occupation _____

T-shirt Size (100% cotton)

Adult: ____ S ____ M ____ L ____ XL ____ XXL Youth: ____ 6-8 ____ 10-12 ____ 14-16

Participant Profile (one per person)



Information Regarding Your Christian Faith

Do you consider yourself to be a Christian? YES NO

Please explain your answer.

List any ministries you've been involved in, or describe specific opportunities you have had to share your faith.

Trip Information

Please state your goals for this trip.

What reasons influenced your decision to come on this trip?

What ways do you see yourself serving while on this missions trip? (choose any that apply)

- a. Drama
- b. Puppetry
- c. Music (specify instrument(s)) _____
- d. Singing
- e. DRIME (drama & mime to music)
- f. Construction
- g. Medical
- h. Other (specify) _____

Participant Signature

Date

**Please complete this form and return it to your group leader or if you are travelling independently, send it to VTI's office:
#3A - 3023 - 21 St. NE, Calgary, AB T2E 7T1.**

Medical Information Form (one per person)



Participant Information

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
(As shown on passport) (Day/Month/Year)

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone Number _____ Business Phone Number _____

Doctor's Name _____ Phone Number _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT:

Name _____

Home Phone Number _____ Business Phone Number _____

Relationship _____

Medical Information

Have you ever had or do have any of the following:

	YES	NO		YES	NO
Recurrent Headaches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allergy: Bee Stings*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allergy: Penicillin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fainting Spells	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allergy: Sulfonamides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asthma	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allergy: Serum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Blood Pressure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allergy: Food (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low Blood Pressure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heart Trouble	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tumor/Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rheumatism/Arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anemia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*If you are allergic to bee stings you must bring your own up-to-date reaction kit

If you answered YES to any of the above questions, please explain: _____

Do you have ANY medical conditions a doctor should be aware of? YES NO

If YES, please explain. _____

Are you at present under a doctor's care for any condition? YES NO

If YES, please explain. _____

Are you taking any medication at this time? YES NO

If YES, please specify. _____

Are you bringing an adequate supply? YES NO

List any phobias that you may have (heights, small spaces etc.) _____

Provincial Health Care/Insurance # _____ Insurance Company _____

Phone Number of Insurance Company _____ Contact Name _____

My policy requires that my insurance company be contacted before any treatment is given. YES NO

I certify that the above information is accurate. I understand that certain medical conditions may preclude acceptance. All required immunizations must be completed before departure. I realize that I must cover the financial costs of any immunizations that I need.

Participant Signature _____

Date _____

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION!!!

(one per family)

Departure Information

You have the option of extending your Family AdVenture by leaving early or staying later than the designated dates. Should you choose, we can take care of most of these arrangements. Please state the dates you plan on leaving for and returning from Puerto Vallarta.

I will depart for Puerto Vallarta on _____ and return on _____.
(date of departure) (date of return)

Number of people in our party: _____

Wind-down in Puerto Vallarta

Our Family AdVenture concludes with two to three days of “wind-down” time at a resort in Puerto Vallarta following our ministry time in Tepic. Should you wish to extend your Family AdVenture experience by leaving early or staying a few extra days, please let us know by completing the following information.

_____ **NO**, I do not wish to extend my Family AdVenture.

_____ **YES**, I would like to extend my Family AdVenture _____ nights.
(# of extra nights)

Optional Travel Insurance Available

You are automatically covered for medical expenses to \$2,000,000 during your trip with VTI. However, you can purchase additional travel insurance from an outside agency if you would like.

Passports - In order to book your plane tickets, we require a legible photocopy (not a fax) of the “tombstone” page from your passport. This is the main page that contains your photo and personal information. Please include these copies, **FOR EACH MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY**, along with your application. If your passports are in process, a birth certificate will suffice temporarily. **Flights cannot be booked until we receive these!**

Please note: We require completion of this form in order to process your application.

***Should you have any questions, please contact Gary Edwards, (403) 777-2970.
Thank you.***



Trip Agreement (one per person)

Financial Expectations

I, _____, as the trip participant, accept the invitation to join Venture Teams International in an excursion to _____, which will occur between the dates of _____ and do hereby acknowledge and accept the responsibilities that are involved in such an excursion. I understand that tax receipts will be issued for all gifts to the fullest extent allowed by the law. Once received, all gifts are non-refundable.

Behavior/Conduct

I understand that on this trip, I am not only representing myself, but also Venture Teams International and the national ministries I will be working and associated with. What I do will affect the work of the team and the national ministries. Therefore, while I am on this trip, I will refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol, or the use of narcotics. I will also respect the guidance and direction of the Venture Teams International leader.

Dress Code

I understand that in the countries where Venture Teams International leads short-term mission trips, my physical appearance is very important to the local church and can affect the success of our ministry, so while I am in the country, I will adhere to and respect the VTI leader's guidelines for appropriate dress.

Dated at _____, this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Name of participant (please print)

Signature

**Assumption of Risk, Release,
Waiver of Claim and Indemnity**
(One per family)



**WARNING: THIS DOCUMENT AFFECTS LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING YOUR RIGHT TO
SUE, AND CREATES LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.**

TO: VENTURE TEAMS INTERNATIONAL ("VTI")

In consideration of VTI accepting my application for, and allowing me/us to participate in, an excursion to _____ being organized by VTI, and which is expected to begin on or about _____, and for the sum of \$1.00, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, I/we, _____, agree to the terms of this Assumption of Risk, Indemnity, Waiver of Claim and Release (collectively the "Agreement"). In particular:

1. ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT participation in the Excursion involves potential dangers, risks and hazards (the "Risks") that include, but are not limited to:

- a) death or injury occurring through vehicle accidents during transportation between various communities
- b) death or injury due to activities related to construction work or other community development activity
- c) death or injury due to the handling and usage of equipment and supplies
- d) death, injury or illness from consumption of unsanitary food and water
- e) death or illness due to the contraction of a communicable disease
- f) death, injury or personal loss incurred as a result of political instability, criminal violation, and hostile environments
- g) death, injury or personal loss incurred as a result of a hurricane, volcanic eruption, an earthquake or other type of natural disaster

I/We FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT my/our participation in the Excursion is entirely at my/our own risk and that I/we freely accept all the inherent risks of participating in the Excursion and the possibility of personal injury, death, kidnapping, property damage and loss resulting therefrom.

I/WE FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT VTI 's acceptance of my involvement as a participant(s) in the Excursion does not and will not make me/us an agent, contractor or employee of VTI and VTI will not be obliged to assume any responsibility for my/our welfare in the event of my detention by lawful or unlawful means and that VTI 's policies prohibit VTI from submitting to any form of extortion to obtain my release or otherwise ensure or protect my/our safety or well being if I/we am taken hostage or otherwise victimized during the Excursion.

2. RELEASE AND WAIVER OF CLAIM

I/WE WAIVE ANY AND ALL claims I/we may now, and in the future, have against, and release and discharge from all liability, and agree not to sue, VTI, its members, directors, officers, employees, volunteers, agents, representatives, and each of them and their respective agents, executives, administrators, representatives, heirs, successors and assigns (the "Releasees"), with respect to any and all liability, costs (including legal costs), claims, damages, demands, actions and causes of action of whatever kind which might arise from or in connection with my/our participation in the Excursion including, without limitation, any personal injury, illness, death, property damage, or financial loss or other loss suffered by me/us or any other family members or dependants, arising, directly or indirectly, from my participation in the Excursion, whether foreseen or unforeseen and regardless of the cause thereof

including, without limitation, negligence or partial negligence on the part of the Releasees or any of them but excluding willful misconduct;

I/WE FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE that VTI, without limitation, may use, publish, reproduce, broadcast, transmit, televise, record, sell, distribute and display any written accounts or depictions, motion and/or still pictures or other materials in which I/we may appear or be mentioned or included, in regard to the Excursion and I/we waive and release any right or claim I/we may have to receive any compensation or reimbursement in regard to any of the foregoing, whether I/we was involved in the creation or production of any of such and regardless of whether any obligation arises under or by virtue of statute or otherwise.

3. INDEMNITY

I/WE AGREE to hold harmless and to indemnify the Releasees for any and all claims made against any of the Releasees by any person, including any claim or action by or on behalf of my spouse or dependants, for damages suffered or costs incurred arising out of or related to any aspect of my participation in the Excursion, including, without limitation, any of the matters described or contemplated in Clause 2 hereof.

4. UNDERSTANDING

I/WE DECLARE that I/we have had the opportunity to seek independent legal advice with respect to the matters addressed in this Agreement, that I/we fully understand the terms of this Agreement and that I/we have not been influenced by any representations or statements made by or on behalf of VTI not recorded in this document.

I/WE CONFIRM THAT I/we am the full age of 18 years and I/we have read and understood the Agreement prior to signing it and I/we agree that the Agreement will be binding upon my heirs, next-of-kin, executors, administrators and successors. I/we am aware that by signing this Agreement I/we am releasing and waiving certain legal rights, including the right to sue and to be awarded potentially substantial damages, which I/we or my heirs, next-of-kin, executors, administrators and assigns have or may have against the Releasees.

5. JURISDICTION AND CHOICE OF LAW

I/WE AGREE that this Agreement shall be governed in all respects by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Province of Alberta and that the parties hereby attorn to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Alberta courts.

6. COMPLETE AGREEMENT

I/WE UNDERSTAND AND AGREE that this Agreement contains the entire agreement between VTI and me/us and that the terms of this Agreement are contractual and not merely a recital.

DATED at _____, this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Witness

Participant

Participant

Participant

Participant

Participant

Participant

REFERENCES (one sheet per family)



Family AdVenture mission trips are an important aspect of VTI's overall mission strategy of effectively reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our desire is to assemble a team of Believers who are willing to serve God in a variety of ways on such a trip. We take our responsibilities for assembling our Family AdVenture teams seriously and therefore ask that you provide us with **at least three references who know your family well**. One of your references must be a pastor from the church your family regularly attends. VTI reserves the right to decline applications if our selection committee feels that this particular mission trip is not suited for your family.

Reference #1 (Pastor from your church)

Name: _____ Position: _____

Church: _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Reference #2

Name: _____

Relationship to you (friend/relative/employer/etc.): _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Reference #3

Name: _____ Position: _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Reference #4

Name: _____ Position: _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Consent Letter for a Child Travelling with One Parent

We recommend having a consent document certified, stamped or sealed by an appropriate authority in the place of residency.

To Whom It May Concern:

I, _____ (full name of parent/guardian), am the lawful parent/guardian of _____ (full name of child), born on _____ (date of birth of child) at _____ (place of birth of child), carrying Canadian passport number _____, issued on _____ (date of issue) at _____ (place of issue).

My child, _____ (full name of child), has my consent to travel with _____ (full name of accompanying adult) to visit _____ (name of country) for _____ (length of stay). My child will be residing with _____ (name of person) at the following address in _____ (name of country):

_____ (Telephone and fax numbers) (work and residence)

Any questions regarding this consent can be directed to me at:

_____ (Telephone and fax numbers (work and residence))

Date: _____
(Full name and signature of custodial parent or guardian)

Signed before me, _____ (name of witness), this _____ (date) by _____ (name of parent or guardian signing the document/letter) at _____ (name of location).

Signature: _____ (Name of witness)

Last Updated:
2003-08-11

Children and Travel

Q: I'm afraid a custody dispute might arise while my child is outside the country. What should I do?

A: If there is a possibility that a custody dispute will develop while your child is travelling alone or with a parent or guardian, we recommend that you seek legal counsel before the child leaves Canada. You should also consult the publication [International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents](#).

Your child custody arrangements in Canada may not be recognized in another country. In extreme cases, you or your child may not be allowed to leave that country. Check your own and your child's status with the country's embassy or consulate in Canada before you travel. With regard to custody questions, contact the Department's Consular Case Management Division at **1 800 387-3124** (in Canada) or **(613) 943-1055**.

Q: What documents are required for a child travelling alone or with one parent?

A: Foreign officials and transportation companies are vigilant concerning documentation for children crossing international borders. Make sure you carry the proper identification for yourself and any children travelling with you, including any documents that might be required by the authorities of the country you intend to visit, and by Canadian authorities on your return to Canada with the child. Generally, persons younger than 18 years of age could be considered children. Proper identification includes, but is not limited to, a valid passport for the child when travelling outside Canada. In addition, we recommend:

- That a consent document or letter be carried to prove that the child has the permission of the absent lawful parent(s) or guardian to travel. This document should be specific to each trip and should include contact information for the parent(s) or guardian. Two sample documents are provided as an example for parents to use as a model to draft their own consent letter: (1) [child travelling with one parent](#) and (2) [child travelling without either parent](#).
- This consent document could be required even if the separation or divorce documents award custody of the child to the accompanying parent, but the non-custodial parent has legal access or visiting rights to the child.
- In addition to the certified consent document from the absent parent, a copy of any separation, divorce or custody decree might be requested.
- A child of divorced or separated parents who is travelling without either parent could use either one consent document signed by both parents or two separate documents.
- If a legal guardian is accompanying the child, then a copy of the court order granting guardianship might also be requested.
- If only one parent's name appears on the birth certificate, and the child is travelling with the other parent, then we also recommend that a "legal" copy of the child's birth certificate be carried.
- If one parent has died, a legal copy of the death certificate could also be carried.

Remember that customs officers, as well as other authorities, inside and outside Canada are looking for missing children and may ask questions. Make sure you carry the proper identification for yourself and any children travelling with you. In addition to passports, proper identification could include, but is not limited to, birth certificates, citizenship cards, landed immigrant records and certificates of Indian status