

Dear Friends,

It is with great excitement that we invite you to join us in building homes for the poor in Tijuana, Mexico this year on Date!

As we have shared with you in the past, and as many of you know from your own experience, building homes in Mexico for hard working but very poor families is a most meaningful life experience. This event is for the entire family and children are warmly invited to join in all aspects of the home building weekend program, children really enjoy and thrive on this activity.

The YWAM facility is a totally self-contained set of buildings where we will all eat, sleep and meet. It is a secure, guarded, multi-million dollar facility that has been designed and built specifically to house, feed and host home building groups.

The weather in Baja Mexico is beautiful and the temperature should be in the 70's or 80's during the day and in the 50's at night -- Bring old, very casual work clothes that can suffer paint and other work related stains. Include a sweatshirt and windbreaker as it can get cool in the late afternoon and evening. **Also, you must bring a Passport or Passport Card for all adults and children.**

We will check in at the YWAM Base on Thursday evening and get settled into our rooms for the evening. Friday morning we will have a hearty and healthy breakfast and then hold an orientation meeting before heading to the job site where we will build one home for every twenty people. When we start the houses there will be nothing on the home site except a cement slab and a large pile of building materials. Each team will complete building their home with only the supervision and assistance of a few YWAM staff members. The families have been selected on the basis of need only including one parent must work full time and earn no more than \$100.00 per week. These families usually have three or more children and they commonly live in a primitive shelter on the building site - - often made of cardboard or junk lumber and a tarp. The families will work by our sides helping to build their new homes as their work schedules permit. No formal skills are required -- there will be work for everyone as there is a lot to do

and we will all "fit" perfectly into the work force. After a long day on the job, we will return to the YWAM Base to shower, relax and be served a great dinner.

On Saturday morning we will have another great breakfast at the YWAM Base and then we will return to the building sites to complete the new homes. Our work will be done around 5:00 PM and at this time we will present each family with a key to their new home. At this occasion, the family is given the opportunity of expressing their gratitude to the group. It may not be until this time that you fully realize how much you have impacted the lives of this family forever -- this is a very special moment that you and your family will cherish forever.

After the new home dedications, we will return to the YWAM Base for a shower, a change of clothing and another fabulous dinner. I suggest that this night will be one of the sounder sleeps that you have ever experienced.

On Sunday morning we will have our breakfast and a brief meeting to "share" our experience. Then we will depart from the YWAM Base at 10:00 AM in a bus or van for our return to the San Diego airport around 1:00 PM. Please do not plan on catching a flight home that day prior to 3:30 PM. You and your family will return to your home physically tired but very fulfilled as you will have changed the lives of another family forever.

This entire weekend will cost (*put in your price*) per person -- and includes the full cost of the home construction, home furnishings, meals, lodging, all ground transportation, etc.

By making your check payable to Youth With A Mission directly the entire cost will become a charitable tax deduction (note – your airfare will be a separate charitable tax deduction as long as the sole purpose of the airfare is the home building trip).

Our entire trip is being organized, staffed and supported by a Christian missionary group named Youth With A Mission (YWAM). Please go to <http://www.ywamsandiegobaja.org> and pull down the "Homes of Hope" tab to visit the YWAM web site to learn more about this incredible organization and

specifically about the Homes of Hope building program in (*Tijuana or Ensenada*). There are over 15,000 of these remarkable individuals around the world in more than 100 countries building homes, orphanages, churches and infrastructure for the poorest of the poor or working on several mercy hospital ships. They perform this work without any pay or compensation (they are supported through their own savings or by friends, family or churches) and none of the fees that you will pay will be used in any way to support them – all of the fees that you pay go solely for the home building process and the cost of your food and lodging. There will be no "religious" orientation to our trip – **people of all faith expressions are welcomed on this trip**. There will be several "non-denominational" prayers at the beginning and the end of the home building process.

A word about personal safety and Mexico. The gang violence in Mexico (and especially in Tijuana) has subsided over the past years. We always travel in groups and the YWAM staff has radios and cell phones at all times. We only build in "safe" areas and we are warmly welcomed by all of the neighbors in the community. YWAM has built over 5,000 homes in the Tijuana and Ensenada area in the past 25 years while hosting over 100,000 "builders" without any personal safety incident. We stay in a guarded campus of buildings in a safe area. I have built homes over a dozen times in the past four years with YWAM and stayed in their beautiful facility and I felt safe and secure during my entire time in Mexico.

This weekend promises to be very special so please don't miss it!

Please e-mail me or call us (XXX-XXX-XXXX) with any questions.

Best Personal Regards,

Your Name