



## Oaxaca For Men Only [FMO] Ministry Details

**Oaxaca Fast Facts...** Oaxaca is the second poorest of the 31 Mexican states and home to a majority of the poorest cities in the country. Catholicism is the largest religion, claiming almost 90% of the population as adherents. Many of the evangelical churches in Oaxaca have less than 50 members and suffer significant persecution from the general population. The total population of Oaxaca is about 3,600,000, with almost 500,000 people living in Oaxaca City, the state capital. There are 16 distinct people groups that live in the state, representing almost one-third of the total population. Of that number, estimates are that 500,000 are monolingual and have little or no access to the bible in their native heart language.

**FMO Overview...** This ministry was started in 2005 when we began the first phase of the Regional Zapotec Pastoral Training Center in Tlacolula. Since that time, our FMO ministry has helped build two churches in Mitla and San Baltazar, and is now also helping in our agricultural co-op.

Our 2011 project is to construct a pastoral/missionary home at the Tlacolula Training site. In 2012 our FMO ministry goal is to build the first two greenhouses at our sustainable ag co-op in Tlacolula.

**General Trip Details...** When you arrive in Oaxaca you will be greeted by a member of the Adventures in Life staff who will get you to your hotel in the center of town. Once we get you checked in, we will go get something to eat. That meal is on AIL Ministry. Then you have free time to see downtown Oaxaca City or rest after your flight. Later that evening we will have time together to pray for our trip, Mexico, and Oaxaca. At that time we will review our ministry and answer any questions about our upcoming week together. After that you are on your own until Sunday morning.

If your first night in Oaxaca is a Saturday, on Sunday morning we will need your bags ready by 8:30am for pick up and delivery to our ministry/housing area. Once your luggage is picked up, we will get breakfast and then go to church. After the service, we will try and experience one of the local markets. Sunday evening will be your first night with your host family.

On our last night together we will have a chance to enjoy a meal in a local restaurant with our entire team, our hosts, the local missionaries and anyone else who has been part of our team. Please plan on about \$20.00 extra for this meal as we try to invite all of the Mexican partners who have played a significant part in your ministry during the week.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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**Do I need a passport and shots?** Yes you need a valid passport. The only required shot is a tetanus shot. This is usually not a problem for college students, as they need this shot to register for school. Please check with your regular physician on any additional shots or pills that may be recommended.

**Is medical care available?** There is excellent medical care available in Mexico. If the need arises, we will get you whatever medical care necessary to ensure your health and safety. Any costs associated with getting you medical care are your responsibility. Some US health plans cover people traveling in Mexico, others do not. Please check ahead of time and bring your health care card with you. The health and accident insurance provided by Adventures in Life Ministry is a secondary policy meant to be used in conjunction with your US policy.

**I am currently taking medicines, how should I handle this?** You should bring enough medicine to last the length of your stay in Mexico as well as another written prescription in the event you lose your medicine.

**How much spending money will I need?** This depends on you. A good rule of thumb is about \$100.00 for the week. If you tend to buy a soda and lots of snacks each day, you will need more money. Since the majority of your meals are included in your program costs, your food costs should be minimal. You will want to bring money to buy gifts for friends and supporters back home. AIL staff will help you access an ATM or exchange your dollars for pesos.

**Where will we be staying?** We generally try and house our Oaxaca participants in private homes, believing this is better for building relationships and connecting people.

**What kind of facilities can we expect?** While you will have a bed or sleeping pad, plan to bring a sheet, small pillow, and pillowcase. Expect cold running water, electricity, and great hospitality. Electricity in Mexico uses a standard plug, just like the US.

**What kind of food will we be eating, and, is the water safe?** All of the food and water served by Adventures in Life Ministry and our ministry host will be safe. **In accordance with the biblical principles expressed in Luke 10:7-8, we will expect you to eat what you are served with a gracious heart and joyful countenance.** Here is a great web site that has some examples of traditional Oaxacan food.  
[<http://www.guelaguetzarestante.com/>]

**Is there a lot of crime?** Cities in Mexico are no different than cities in the United States. Yes, there is crime. If you take reasonable precautions, you should not be bothered. The areas where we are staying and working are generally safe and secure.

**What if we don't speak Spanish?** No hay problema! Adventures in Life Ministry always has Spanish speakers alongside those serving with us.

## FAQ'S

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**What will we (I) be doing?** The short answer is serving. Your time serving will take on many forms but will include construction, possibly leading a bible study or devotion, or even serving as part of our agricultural team. The bottom line is this: your time in Oaxaca will be about giving away as much of yourself as you can to as many as you can.

**What can we bring to make our mission easier?** Basically the number one item you can bring is a willing, servant's heart. A bi-lingual bible will be a great asset. As will an ability to be flexible, think creatively, and change direction quickly if necessary. The bottom line is for you to bring an attitude that is prepared to "be whatever, do whatever, whenever, in the name of Jesus."

**What can we bring to give away? Love...**the love of Christ, the love of your church, and love from your heart. This is best expressed through gracious attitudes, engaging smiles, a willingness to learn, hugs, and a genuine appreciation of the local culture, customs, and traditions. It is customary to give a gift from your team to your ministry hosts at the end of the week to say thank you. We encourage you to bring something from your home area.

**Will we have free time during our stay?** Yes. Since AIL Ministry believes in learning about the local area, in addition to your ministry time, you will have opportunities to see the city where you are serving, some of the historic ruins of the area, and purchase some cool Mexican souvenirs for your supporters back home.

**How can I communicate back home?** It is very easy to call from Mexico. You can purchase a local pay telephone card for about \$10.00. This is good for 20 minutes of telephone time to the US. As you are there to serve others, we discourage the use of US cell phones while on mission with AIL Ministry, plus it is at least a dollar a minute plus tolls to do so.

**Is there E-mail in Mexico?** Yes! But you have to go to an internet café to use it. During the week, our ability to access e-mail and cell service will be extremely limited.

**What does AIL do with the fees that I pay to participate?** All costs associated with serving with Adventures in Life Ministry come out of your fees. This includes money for food and water, training, participant insurance, AIL transportation, salaries for our Mexican staff, and utility expenses at our ministry sites and host churches. A portion of your fees also go directly to Adventures in Life Ministry to enable us to maintain quality leadership and relationships with our partner churches throughout the year.

**How many churches and people serve with AIL annually?** You are part of an annual network of over 125 short-term missionaries and more than 20 partner churches serving throughout Mexico with Adventures in Life Ministry. This includes people and churches from Canada, the United States and Mexico.

## What to Bring

Please understand that this is a very general list, and is not meant to be all-inclusive. Think of it as a guideline. There are some principles we believe you should follow when choosing what to bring, and how to pack and prepare.

Less is usually better. Resist the urge to believe you need clean clothes every day. You will be working hard, but there is no need to bring a different pair of pants for each day.

**Pants** – Plan to arrive in Oaxaca wearing long pants and for that to be your primary clothing option away from your host home or location. On Sunday when we go to church guys will need a pair of “Docker” type pants that day.

**Shorts** – Shorts are not permitted on ministry sites when serving with Adventures in Life in Oaxaca. Also, few people from Mexico will wear shorts for sightseeing in this area, so we will not permit shorts on our free day. You can wear shorts for your flight home and in the evenings around your host home or location.

**Shirts** – T-shirts are good for work days and sightseeing. Please bring a collared shirt for church.

**Hat** – The sun can, and will be intense. Avoid sunburn with a hat.

**Shoes** – Tennis shoes are fine for church, so if you want to use them everyday and just bring one pair, you’ll be fine and save some room in your suitcase. Just understand you will have a lot of time on your feet. Flip flops are not appropriate or suitable footwear for day use, work crew, or your free day in the city. However, make sure you bring a pair for the shower or your host home or location in the middle of the night.

**Jacket** – The weather in Oaxaca can change radically in a few hours. A light jacket or sweatshirt is recommended. It is likely for us to have rain in the afternoons during our time there.

**Towel** – Bring a light weight towel. The quick drying towels from REI are excellent and easy to pack.

**Personal Hygiene Items** – This covers things like medicines you are taking, toiletries [shampoo, tooth paste, etc.], sunblock, bug repellent, etc.

**Personal Travel Items** – Bible, journal, pens, flashlight, camera, extra batteries or memory sticks, and any electronic chargers you may need.

**Sleeping Items** – Plan to bring a sheet and possibly a pillow.

Save room in your suitcase to take things home. You will want to purchase some items to take home to your family, or supporters. With new luggage and carry-on restrictions in place on many airlines, you will need to fit those in your luggage on the return flight.

## Flight Info

There are two primary airlines that fly into Oaxaca Airport [OAX].

**Mexicana Airlines** serves many U.S. cities. Almost all of their flights connect at the Mexico City International Airport [MEX]. Flights from Mexico City to Oaxaca take about an hour.

**Continental Airlines** flies direct to Oaxaca through Houston [IAD]. This is often the easier of your two options, but it usually costs a little more. If you are worried about finding your way in the Mexico City Airport, this is a great option.

Both airlines have plenty of English speaking employees in Mexico City.

If you are flying through Mexico City, you will need to go through immigration there. Make sure to leave at least two hours between your connecting flights. If you are flying direct to Oaxaca on Continental, you will go through customs and immigration upon arrival in Oaxaca.

For the best rate, you usually have to travel over night, which means either a long day of travel, or an early Oaxaca arrival. That is why we have a hotel room for you the first night.

If you need, or choose to arrive on Friday before our ministry begins, plan on a hotel charge for that night of about \$40.00.

On your departure day, plan to leave Oaxaca City Airport no earlier than 10:00am. That will allow us sufficient time to get you safely to the airport in time for your flight. If you must leave earlier than that, we will get you a hotel at an additional cost for Friday night. You can then get a taxi Saturday morning direct from your hotel.

The taxi cost is about \$15.00 and the hotel cost is about \$40.00.

**Important note** – Please note that there are significant differences for group international travel as opposed to an individual traveling. For this reason, Adventures in Life strongly recommends that you use a travel agent, or group travel expert to book your tickets. While they may cost a little more per ticket, if something goes wrong on the trip, the help these experts can provide in resolving any issues will be invaluable.

[Adventures in Life can connect you with a few organizations that specialize in group mission travel who can help you make travel arrangements if you so desire.](#)



# FOR MEN ONLY OAXACA REGISTRATION FEBRUARY 5 – 12, 2011

Adventures in Life Ministry, 2389 – C Renaissance Ctr. Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89119  
Telephone 702.719.9147 ~ E-mail: info@allministry.org  
www.allministry.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Church Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL Have you participated with AIL before? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Current Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
*(Please attach a copy with your deposit)*

What is your level of Spanish proficiency?

1(None)                      2                      3(Can converse)                      4                      5(Fluent)

Are you able to lift and carry 25 pounds? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ , No \_\_\_\_\_ .

Have you ever been treated for, or are you currently under treatment for any of the following:  
(If yes, please explain on the back of this sheet.)

- Heart Disease                       Diabetes                       Epilepsy
- Depression                       Asthma                       High Blood Pressure
- Fainting/Dizziness                       Kidney Disease                       Severe Allergies (peanuts/latex, etc.)
- Migraines                       Colitus                       Other

Please list all medications you are currently taking. (Use additional sheet if necessary)

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of your Primary Care Physician \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Health Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

**FMO is primarily construction based. As such, most of our ministry will involve different and varied types of building expertise. You do not need to be an expert to be involved. The most important gifts needed are a servant's heart and the ability to be flexible. However there may be some other ministry opportunities available based on the talents and abilities of our participants. Please take a few moments and let us know if you have any special skills that might be used for ministry.**

**If you are interested in teaching as part of the Zapotecan Training Center Ministry, please indicate that as well along with any qualifications you may have.**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor (please list) | <input type="checkbox"/> Instrumental Musician (instrument) | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocal Musician       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer/Tech            | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Abilities (please detail)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography or Video |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professor (subjects)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Auto Mechanic                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____          |

Do you have any special dietary needs or food allergies that we should know about ahead of time?

If yes, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

**The cost of this ministry opportunity is \$1000.00 plus your transportation to and from Oaxaca, Mexico. Please attach a deposit of \$100.00 and return this form by January 1, 2011 to the address below. If you would like to pay all or part of your fees by credit card, we accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express. Just provide us with your credit card number and expiration date. We will process your payment and send a receipt. You may also process your payment online at [www.ailministry.org](http://www.ailministry.org).**

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that all of my program monies are due to Adventures in Life Ministry 3 weeks prior to my arrival in Oaxaca or January 15, 2011. I also understand that I am responsible to make my own travel arrangements to and from Oaxaca, Mexico and that I must provide AIL Ministry with those details.

**There is no smoking or alcohol allowed on trips facilitated by AIL Ministry. Will you abide by this policy?  Yes  No**

I have read all of the information supplied by Adventures in Life Ministry Inc. I verify that all information I have submitted to Adventures in Life Ministry Inc. as part of my application/registration process is truthful. I understand that participation in this trip may be hazardous and/or dangerous and I agree not to hold or attempt to hold Adventure in Life Ministry Inc. liable for any loss, damage, or injury to my person or property caused by any act of neglect of other persons on the trip or trip sites, or caused in any manner other than the willful or negligent act of Adventures in Life Ministry Inc., its agents and employees, and will indemnify and hold Adventures in Life Ministry Inc. harmless from any liability for damages(including personal property), loss of work time, death, injury, or claims against Adventures in Life Ministry Inc. arising out of or in any way relating to any such loss, damage, or injury.

I realize that contributions to Adventures in Life Ministry are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations and are **non refundable** in the event that I am unable or choose not to participate in Oaxaca FMO 2011. The financial disbursement of my contributions are at the discretion of AIL, its staff, agents and ministry partners and that any funds given in excess of my program costs cannot be returned and will be used to further the ministry of Adventures in Life.

I understand that Adventures in Life Ministry may use photographs, video, and other likenesses of me to promote their ministry. I will allow AIL ministry to do so at their discretion without seeking further permission or expecting any remuneration for the use of said likenesses.

**Applicant's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to:  
Adventures in Life Ministry, 2389 – C Renaissance Ctr. Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89119  
702.719.9147 ~ [info@ailministry.org](mailto:info@ailministry.org)  
[www.ailministry.org](http://www.ailministry.org)**

**Please return this form with any payment and a copy of your passport to Adventures in Life Ministry prior to Jan 1, 2011.**