

# *Foundation for His Ministry*

Home for Needy Children-Casa Hogar  
Dom. Conocido, San Isidro, Itzicuaro  
Morelia, Michoacan  
C.P. 58337  
443-320-4009

*Thank you for your interest in serving at our Mission in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico! Many exciting things are happening there, and we are blessed to have you be a part of this expanding ministry of mercy! This information packet includes travel information and cultural considerations, and we trust it will be of help to you in preparing for your trip. May the Lord bless you as you serve Him in Morelia, Mexico!*

Foundation for His Ministry is a mission society whose purpose is to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ. To this end we share and demonstrate God's love through the power of the Holy Spirit by meeting basic spiritual, emotional, physical and educational needs of those in and around Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico. Our ministry strives to do this in such a way as to establish an effective ministry model for other parts of the world.

## **BRIEF HISTORY**

In 1966 Chuck and Charla Pereau founded the ministry as a small orphanage, which has since grown to become a thriving, multi-faceted ministry. *Charla's Children*, an Angel Award-winning book, tells the story more fully and may be obtained at the Mission, on-line: [www.ffhm.org](http://www.ffhm.org) or through the U.S. office. Please view our short video for free by visiting: [www.ffhm.org/landing\\_pages/66,3.html](http://www.ffhm.org/landing_pages/66,3.html) . The video is located at the bottom of the page. It encapsulates the ministries that all branch out of our organization. We encourage you read the book and see the video prior to your arrival (shot on-site at our Baja location)

## **MORELIA - THE CITY**

Morelia is one of the most beautiful colonial cities of Mexico. Capital of the state of Michoacán, Morelia's strong indigenous background can be noted in the faces of its people and the place names of surrounding towns. It's architecture is imported from Spain juxtaposed with monuments and plazas named for one of the country's most important independence-era heroes. Morelia's "Mexican-ness" isn't its rodeos. It's the subtle

fusion of competing cultures, which is, after all, what Mexico is all about. Its ample avenues are flanked by distinguished buildings which will remind you of



typical Spanish architecture. It is a gorgeous city to visit and you will thoroughly enjoy taking some time to walk its beautiful historic downtown as well as seeing some of the incredible cathedrals.

## NEARBY TOWNS

### Quiroga:

A small community that caters to tourists is about 29 kilometers west of Morelia. This community is a great place for shopping and a taste of Mexican souvenirs. Great place to look at hand made Mexican guitars, wood working and pottery just to name a few. Banking and money exchange places available here.



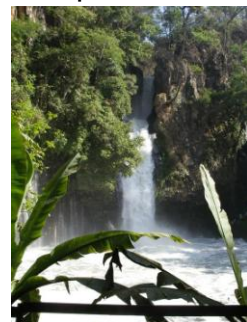
### Patzcuaro:

This is a community about 45 minutes from Morelia. Its claim to fame is the island and only accessible by a short boat ride. The island also has great souvenir shopping and a taste of old Mexico. There is also a statue on the island that you can visit and climb. It is referred to the Statue of Liberty of Patzcuaro



### Uruapan:

This city is about 1 hour from Morelia and with an absolutely breathtaking National Park. This park is located right in town and is a magnificent garden\waterfall park. You can spend hours walking around looking at both natural and man made waterfalls as well as awesome flowers and trees. You will even be treated to cliff divers who dive off trees into the waterfall basins.





## CLIMATE

### Morelia's temperature and seasonal weather

- Daytime temperatures average around 27° C (85° F) and nighttime temperatures average around 10° C. (50° F) throughout the year.
- Hot spells do occur in April and May when temperatures may range around 35° Celsius in the daytime. There is no air-conditioning on the base.
- Towards the end of May, the rainy season will commence bringing cloud cover in the afternoons and cooler temperatures. This can run through November. Rain, often heavy, occurs usually in the late afternoons.
- The sun can be intense and cause burning quickly so sun screen is a must, especially during the hotter days.
- Cold weather, with temperatures falling to the freezing level, occurs in December and January during the nights. No buildings are heated, so please come prepared! The chill wears off as soon as the sun comes up.



## BOOKING A WORKGROUP

Visitors can generally arrive on any day of the week and depart any day of the week as long as it does not exceed a 10-day stay. Please fax or e-mail your requests. **Requests are processed in the order they are received.** If possible, please also provide alternate dates within the month for which you are requesting to visit to increase your chances of getting a reservation. Requests should be emailed to the U.S. Volunteer Coordinator at [karen@ffhm.org](mailto:karen@ffhm.org) or faxed to (949)492-0900.

**The following information is required PRIOR to receiving a confirmation letter from the Main Office and is requested that you use the format below:**

1. Team Name/Church/Org:
2. Team Leader Name(s):
3. Location: **MORELIA**
4. Dates: 1st, 2nd, and (or, 3<sup>rd</sup>) choices
5. Size of Group: (max of 17)

6. Contact Info: Address, Phone and Email

**Until you receive a final confirmation letter via email, your dates are not yet reserved.** Once your reservation has been confirmed, a non-refundable deposit is due within 90 days:

- A deposit is not required for groups of 9 or fewer
- \$100 USD is required for groups of 10-15 people

If you wish to increase the size of your team, you must contact the U.S. Volunteer Coordinator with your request. If approval is granted and your group number increases enough to fall into a new deposit category, the new deposit amount applies. If your deposit is not received within 90 days, your booking will be forfeited unless previous special arrangements were made. If you wish to cancel your booking, please let the U.S. Volunteer Coordinator know as soon as possible as there may be others on the waiting list wanting your spots and will appreciate having as much planning time as possible.

**In the U.S., please send checks or money orders to:** FFHM, P.O. Box 74000, San Clemente, CA 92673-0134

**In Canada, please send checks or money orders in U.S. dollars to:** Maranatha Evangelistic Association, P.O. Box 1292, Calgary, AB T2P 2L2

**Credit Card:** On the internet, go to [www.ffhm.org](http://www.ffhm.org) and click on the “Make a Contribution” tab.

**IMPORTANT:** Please include the following information when sending your deposit, regardless of which method you choose:

- Team Name
- Dates
- Designate your payment as your ***Morelia Mission Workgroup Deposit.***



## TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

**Minors:** Visitors to the Mission are generally adults, though minors may also visit. Minors, like adults, are neither the liability of the Mission nor the responsibility of Mission staff. Mexican law considers anyone under the age of 18 a minor. A minor coming to the Mission must be either:

- Accompanied by a parent or grandparent
- At least 16 years of age and accompanied by a legal guardian\*. The accompanying legal guardian must have a notarized letter signed by BOTH parents giving permission to take their child into Mexico. Please see note (\*) for more information.

A guardian-to-minor ratio of 1:1 is required for minors under the age of 16 unless the minors are with their own parents. In this case, the ratio does not need to be 1:1, as long as at least one of the parents accompanies the family's children **at all times**.

- If the minor is 16 or 17 years of age, he/she must have a parent or legal guardian\* present for the duration of his/her stay, but does not have to be accompanied at all times like a minor under the age of 16. We request a guardian-to-minor ratio of 1:4 for minors 16 and 17 years of age.

*\*A legal guardian is someone who has the legal authority (and the corresponding duty) to care for the personal and property interests of another person. This includes, but is not limited to having the legal authority to sign for medical care for the minor for whom the guardian is responsible.*

The Mexican government does not permit minors (persons under the age of 18) to enter the country unless accompanied by a parent or a legally-documented guardian who is authorized to sign for medical care (a document indicating guardianship, signed by BOTH parents and notarized, is required).

All of the requirements above apply only to nationals of:  
Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, U.S.A.

For information on other nationalities, please contact your nearest Mexican Consulate.

The Mexican Consulate reserves the right to request further evidence of the applicant's intention to visit Mexico as a tourist whenever such intention has not been established to the Consul's satisfaction. The same right applies with regard to evidence of the applicant's financial means to sustain him/herself while in Mexico.

***\*Immigration requirements are subject to change. You should verify whether or not you meet current requirements before leaving for your trip. FFHM is not a licensed government agency and this information is provided as a courtesy. Please refer to [www.travelstate.gov](http://www.travelstate.gov) for further information.***



## TRANSPORTATION

**Airplane** – You have the option of flying directly into Morelia’s airport or getting what often is a less expensive flight into Mexico City. If flying into Morelia, the Mission staff will pick you up.

(Photo: Morelia’s tarmac).



**Bus** – Once you are in Mexico City, you can get a first-class bus from the bus terminal (take a taxi from the airport to either of the two stations: 1)"Observatorio" or 2)"Del Norte"). From there it will take you approximately 4 hours before arriving at the Morelia bus station. The buses are air conditioned and provide movies; there is a restroom on board as well. (See photo) The Mission staff will pick you up at the bus station.



**Personal Vehicle** - You can see much of Mexico this way. It will take between two to four days once inside of Mexico depending on your route from a U.S. border.



## Regarding Money

Dollars should not be torn or wrote on in anyway, as they will not be accepted by merchants. There are banks and exchange houses for buying pesos with dollars. Canadian dollars can be exchanged for pesos but only in a few places. ATM's are available and give only pesos. Money orders and travelers checks can be cashed in for pesos but it's often more difficult.



## ACCOMMODATIONS

We have 3 dorms for visitors which sleep 15 people total. A hall bath is available and one of the dorms, that houses six people has a private bath.



## MISSIONS FACILITIES

Please be considerate of others using the restroom/shower facilities. Please clean up after yourself after each use.

We're sorry, but we do not have the resources for visitors staying 10 days or less to do their laundry.

***Please keep in mind that this is a faith ministry, funded by the widow's mite. We ask that you be conservative in your use of utilities and receive the daily bread with thanksgiving and without waste.***

***The estimated cost for room, board, and utilities is approximately \$15.00 per person, per day. Donations to cover these costs may be made in advance to our U.S. Office or may be left in an offering box at the Mission Office.***



## MORNING DEVOTIONS/CHURCH ATTENDANCE

A regular time is set aside for morning devotions on Mondays through Fridays at 8:15 am *Your presence is required at these gatherings – please be prompt.* Please do not bring food or drinks to morning devotions. If you would like to get involved please let us know in advance as visitors sometimes enjoy leading praise and worship as well as to give their testimonies, words of encouragement, etc. The host/hostess will provide more information after you arrive.



## SCHEDULES

Meals: Breakfast M-F: 7:15am  
(Weekends: 8:30am)

Lunch: 2:00pm

Dinner: 6:00pm



Sometimes the evening meals may be to light, groups are allowed to plan and prepare their evening meals after the children have eaten and the kitchen is clean.

School: (school is on the grounds)  
M-F 8:00am-1:30pm  
They do homework after lunch

Bed Time:

Children 8:30pm

Staff in their quarters 10:30pm

(This time is flexible for groups for down-town visits, eating out and devotions)



## MISSION WORK PROJECTS

This is dependent upon the Mission needs at the time of your arrival and may include anything from helping in the kitchen to sweeping the floor. Please be prepared to be flexible and willing to do anything asked. The Skills & Abilities List is invaluable in helping us make the best use of your abilities. Remember that all you do is important to the day-to-day operation of the Mission!

### Basic areas to help in:

- Kitchen
- Laundry Room
- House Chores:
  - Sweep
  - Mop
  - Windows
  - Wash the vehicles
  - Cut the grass
- School:
  - English teachers
  - Computers
  - Help with homework (Spanish speakers only)
- Outreach:
  - Visit hospital
  - Take clothes to the poor
  - Street witnessing
  - Vacation bible school
  - Drama/skits



### Major areas to help in:

Construction projects can range in the following areas:

- Mixing cement
- Laying brick
- Tying steel
- Forming
- Welding (windows, doors and protections)
- Carpentry (closets, interior doors, furniture)
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- General maintenance
- Painting



## TRANSPORTATION DURING YOUR STAY

Normally groups are picked up at Morelia airport or the local Morelia bus station (for those coming from Mexico City) and brought to the mission. They are brought back to the airport or bus station for departure. Transportation can be provided for visiting down-town, buying souvenirs and going out for evening meals, when the vehicles are available!

Cars and vans can be rented from a rental agency upon arrival at the airport. The internet can provide more information.



## RULE & REGULATIONS

Basic rules and specific conduct standards will be communicated upon arrival.

### Standards of Conduct to Adhere By:

- If you leave the Mission for an extended period of time, please let the host/hostess or your group leader know where you are going and when you expect to return. Please go in 3's or small groups when going into town.
- There are no men permitted in women's housing and no women permitted in men's housing.
- The Sala, soup kitchen, fire pit and visitor center lounge are the designated areas for socializing.
- No alcoholic beverages, smoking, drugs or dancing are allowed on Mission property or in the community and surrounding areas.
- Open fires, firearms and/or firecrackers are not allowed on the premises.
- Please do not be overly noisy and/or obnoxious at any time during your stay. We ask that all is quiet by 10:00 p.m.
- No inappropriate public displays of affection are allowed.

**Attention all shutterbugs!** The U.S. office is always in need of good quality pictures for our monthly newsletter! Pictures should not be taken during a church service or in the camps without the pastor or overseer's permission. Pictures of the children or ministry can be used for publication only with written permission of FFHM. Please send digital photos on a CD to **FFHM, P.O. Box 74000, San Clemente, CA 92673** or email them to [info@ffhm.org](mailto:info@ffhm.org).

## Dress Code

The local Christian community adheres to a conservative dress code – it is very modest. We must be more culturally sensitive while visiting. Please adhere to the dress code guidelines listed below. If you are asked to change, please be willing and open to do so.

- Shorts and skirts must be at least to the top of the knee or longer.
- Hats (on males) and shorts are not allowed in morning devotions or church.
- Spaghetti straps and tank tops are not permitted. Shoulders must be covered.
- Clothing that exposes the midriff is not permitted.
- Tight-fitting clothing is not permitted.
- Sheer or see-through clothing is not permitted.
- Bathing suits should be very conservative and *only* worn at the beach.
- Body piercing jewelry, except earrings on females, is not permitted.
- Please avoid extreme or offensive make-up, clothing and hairstyles. Please cover tattoos if they are offensive in nature.
- Bare feet are not permitted (for health and safety reasons).



## COMMUNICATION

Direct Mission Phone # 011-52-4433-20-4009 – Spanish Only. There are internet cafes in town for visitors wishing to use the internet.



## USEFUL ITEMS TO BRING

- Camera
- Drinks (juice, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, etc.)
- Snack food
- Jacket
- Towel
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Soap
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Sunscreen
- Sleeping Bag or Sheet/Blanket Combo
- Spanish/English dictionary
- Modest Swimsuit
- Tennis shoes/sandals
- Travel alarm
- Mosquito Repellent
- Hat or scarf

- Work clothes, gloves, boots, jeans and t-shirts are appropriate for men and women
- U.S. or Mexican currency only

**PETS** - Sorry, no pets allowed.



The Mission grounds as a visiting group gathers in the courtyard