

Genesis Programs FAQ

QUESTIONS?

This section answers some of the most common questions presented to us regarding participation in our customized signature programs. If you have a specific question not addressed here please call Genesis, and we would be pleased to answer all your concerns.



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Why are we doing what we are doing?

Personal and Spiritual growth for yourself and the children we serve. Practically, we are taking individuals out of their comfort zones and exposing them to a reality that most of the world shares. Without opportunities to change the focus of our personal lives, we get caught up in the immediate needs/desires of our everyday world. Every person needs the perspective of Global Vision, including the children in Mexico.

We are one family under God, with believers in Mexico and through out the world. By involving ourselves in the greater community of faith around the world, we have an opportunity to open our lives to be used by God. Through caring and giving, we experience closeness to our faith and the Church community that is rare in our daily lives. Ideally, every participant may have an opportunity for personal growth and catch a brief glimpse of what the Church should be at its best. The children get to experience the greater impact of others sharing and living their faith.

One week helping others is a very short time. However, it is often the doorway to a lifetime of Christian service. The perspective and experience gained on a Genesis program inspires acts of service and outreach when the participants return home. The physical, emotional and spiritual challenges you face in the Genesis experience will give you greater strength, character and faith.



What do I gain by participating in a Genesis program?

As a group:

- You learn how to work together both physically and spiritually.
- You learn how to cope with individual differences as you find solutions and deal with one another in specific situations.
- You provide support for a local orphanage and/or shelter.
- You gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a family of God.

As an individual:

- You may develop a deeper appreciation of what God has planned for your life and a more thankful heart for the blessings He has given you.
- You experience a foreign environment and gain a new perspective as you see the world through the eyes of the more disadvantaged.
- You build lasting relationships across language and cultural barriers.
- You add a new dimension to your personal relationship and experience with family, friends and colleagues while you open windows of opportunity for reflection away from your usual daily demands.

What is a "Mission Project"?

A "Mission Project" is a group of people that have come together in unity and purpose to give themselves in service to others. The whole experience is based on Matthew 25:34-40. This is a cross-cultural environment that includes both physical and spiritual labor. Your schedule on a "Mission Project" will be very busy. You will get tired. Time for reflection and spiritual enhancement punctuates days of learning activities, some form of sports ministry, and evening group spiritual activities that are conducted with the integration of small group "family time".

Where will I be sleeping on a Genesis Program?

The facility is rustic. We use large tent-like huts. There are separate huts for the guys and girls with bunk beds but no mattresses. Depending on the number of participants, some may be on the floor or need to bring tents. Your individual group will be informed of any such needs. You will need a camping air mattress or pad along with a sleeping bag or bedding. There are separate showers [bring solar showers] that are open to the sky ☺ (Shower in your bathing suits) and latrine bathroom facilities.

Can I drink the water?

Genesis furnishes all purified drinking water. Purified water is readily available in most places. Established tourist restaurant water, vegetables and ice are normally trustworthy. Simple tips: Don't let water from the shower in your mouth. Dry the edge of any cans or containers stored in ice or that are wet. Use only bottled water when brushing your teeth. When off site, eat and drink only at approved local sites. Ask if in doubt.

Is the food safe to eat?

Yes. All meals at the program site will be prepared with strict attention to quality, freshness and cleanliness. All vegetables and uncooked foods are washed in purified water and safe for consumption. When buying food in town, the group leaders will direct participants to approved establishments. Most food in the region is safe. Always check with a group leader before purchasing food from questionable sources.

What if I do not speak Spanish?

Genesis provides English-speaking guides who will make sure your journey is smooth and pleasurable. Where appropriate, Genesis provides handouts of useful English and Spanish terms and phrases depending on the task/activity being performed. A shared experience working together overcomes many barriers to communication. Additionally, you will find a great deal can be communicated with a warm smile, handshake and simple gestures.

What if I get sick or hurt?

As with any outdoor adventure there is always some risk. A little prevention and common sense can avoid most illness or injury. In the event of illness or emergency, some of the Genesis staff is trained in basic first aid and Greg Amstutz has had WFR (Wilderness First Responder) training. Genesis keeps a well-stocked first aid kit on location for most common problems.

Keep in mind that the most common illnesses that people encounter on programs such as this can be solved by drinking water. Lots of water! Dehydration is the most frequent health problem we experience. Dehydration will cause dizziness, fatigue, headaches, sore throats and a variety of other symptoms that can easily be avoided. Medical professionals recommend a liter or 8 cups of water each day. Soft Drinks do not count. Anytime you think about it, take a sip of water. Do your part to ensure you have a pleasant and healthy Genesis experience – drink plenty of water!

In the event of illness or injury, each person, as they decide on programs must balance the risk they are willing to take as it applies to their health. Genesis knows the best clinics and hospitals in the area. Very few, if any, Mexican medical facilities accept American insurance. Have a credit card ready. Once the emergency is stabilized you will need to call your insurance company to report the incident. The facility will supply a detailed breakdown of the services rendered in your "emergency" so you may submit the bill to your insurance carrier when you return home. All receipts will be in Spanish.

Each group should have a designated emergency contact person at home who Genesis can contact in the event of an emergency.

What if someone needs to contact me?

Genesis can be reached through our office in Ensenada or the U.S. numbers provided on page one of this trip packet.

Are shots necessary?

No. But it would be good to be up-to-date on your tetanus shot. Some consider having Hepatitis A & B shots since we are working with children.