



SPIRITUAL OUTREACH GUIDE

Tips, suggestions, and resources for additional evangelistic opportunities

Although our main goal is to serve God through building homes for families, we welcome teams to participate in additional evangelistic efforts. This guide will provide with you with tips, suggestions, and resources to aid you in your planning. Our staff would love to assist you in planning and coordinating your outreach event. We encourage you to keep it simple, and to bring enough people to complete the construction of the house and any additional activities. Please remember to plan enough time for your build and your activity. (We recommend to first time teams to keep it very small and simple.)

Whether you choose to do one of the listed ideas, create your own, or simply build the home, the best thing that you can do is pray. Pray for the family for whom you will be building. Pray for the pastor and the church you will be staying in. Pray for the country and community in which you will serve. Pray for your Casas por Cristo missionary and your team members.

Time Frame

- **When the house is completed:** After dedication, teams can spend the rest of that day, or an extra day doing additional activities in the community.
- **During the construction of the house:** Teams can bring extra people to participate solely in other evangelistic efforts.
- **At night or during siesta time:** Groups may do additional projects during down time: Siesta time (12-3:30 pm) during the summer, and after the work day (5:00 pm) during the rest of the year.

Additional Information

We will attempt to contact the host pastor prior to your visit to get him involved in your outreach activity. We do ask that you let us know at the beginning of the month prior to your visit so we will have enough time to contact your pastor at the monthly pastor's meeting. For example, if your trip is scheduled for the week of May 25th, please inform us of your outreach activity by the beginning of April. It is important that whatever activities you plan to offer are simple enough to be enacted in a short period of time.

It is a good idea to bring an informational flyer written in Spanish to pass out to the people in the community. We can make these for you if given advance notice. It should include the "when" and "where" details. For greater impact, it is important to bring a translator. Please keep in mind the goal of your outreach event is to partner with the local pastor in reaching the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We want the people to associate the event with the local pastor so they will have someone to turn to when your team has returned home.

Ideas (To be done at the church or nearby site)

- **VBS (Vacation Bible School):** You can work with the local pastor to pass out fliers in the neighborhood. If you are planning a daily VBS, it is a good idea to use the first day to let the neighborhood children and parents know you will be offering a VBS during the rest of the week. You will need to bring Spanish materials and all of the necessary supplies.
- **Soccer Camp:** Many churches have some sort of soccer field in close proximity. You can organize soccer games with Bible lessons during breaks.
- **Free Community Dinner:** You can plan a meal for church and community members. Word usually spreads fast, so plan for a big group (150-200). The meal should be fairly simple as some of the kitchen facilities are not up to the standard to which you are accustomed. Grilling hamburgers and hotdogs is a good way to feed a large group. You will need to bring the grill and propane/charcoal.
- **Medical/Eye Care Clinic:** There is a great need for medical and eye care assistance. Although the amount of care you can administer is limited, doctors, nurses and optometrists can offer a wide variety of services and tests. The tests can range from diabetes screening to full eye care exams. Feel free to bring any equipment you feel necessary. However, it may be difficult to bring large equipment across the border.
- **Movie Night:** You can bring a projector, sound equipment, dvd player, dvd, and snacks to host a community movie night at the church where you are staying or at the sponsoring pastor's church. You should plan to provide snacks for 150-200 people. Consider hosting the movie night outside after dark. This is a fairly simple activity that does not require a translator. Some advanced preparation is necessary to spread the word to the community.

Additional Resource

SAEM (Spanish American Evangelism Ministry) (915) 852-2525 www.spanam.org

SAEM has a wide variety of Spanish Bibles, tracts and materials. Many of the tracts are free of charge or of minimal expense. They offer has pre-made evangelism packets available. These packets include an Old Testament coloring book, crayons, New Testament, 4 Christian tracts, hard candy, and a small toy. If you would like a catalog, feel free to contact them. For Juárez trips, SAEM will deliver all materials to the Casas por Cristo office in El Paso. For Acuña trips, SAEM packets can be shipped to the Casas por Cristo Acuña Office (P.O. Box 421643, Del Rio, TX 78842). Please notify our office if you have purchased any SAEM packets.