



PO BOX 756 • MCALLEN, TX 78505 • 956-631-3567 • FAITHMINISTRY.ORG

## MISSION WORK GROUP SAFETY GUIDELINES

If you are planning a mission work group trip to Mexico this year, the first thing you should know is that **your safety and the safety of your group is our highest priority.**

The violence reported in the news is contained to certain areas of Reynosa and has not affected the areas where we work. Because our staff in Mexico is all locals, they are very in tune with what's going on and stay on top of everything going on around the city. We put the following measures in place to keep you **safe at all times**:

### **Crossing the border**

- Groups are escorted by a Faith Ministry staff member across the border to Mexico at the beginning of the week and back to the U.S. at the end of the week.
- If a situation arises and the staff deems it necessary to leave, the group will leave on the safest route to the border, escorted by a Faith Ministry staff member.

### **Staying in Mexico**

- Staff members are at the complex and clinic at all times when a group is staying there, and the executive director is on-call if there is an emergency.
- Three employees guard the area where the group is staying, either the complex or clinic, all night to ensure the group's safety.

### **Exploring the area**

- If someone in the group or the entire group wants to leave the complex or clinic, they must be accompanied a Faith Ministry staff member. This includes leaving in the van or by foot. If a youth group member wants to leave the complex, they must be with an adult.
- Groups should not leave the complex or clinic after dark; if the group wants to eat out at a restaurant in the area, we recommend going on the early side.

### **Medical emergencies**

- In the case of a medical emergency, a Faith Ministry staff member will accompany any group member to the hospital in Reynosa or will cross the border into McAllen.
- There are several clinics, pharmacies and a hospital in Reynosa. However, if necessary, the complex and clinic in Reynosa are both less than 30 minutes from several hospitals in McAllen.

We want every group to feel safe while they are in Mexico, so please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have. You can contact Executive Director David Rodriguez at [david@faithministry.org](mailto:david@faithministry.org) or 956-631-3567.

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"... FOR ALL WE NEED IS FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE." - GALATIANS 5:6