

June 2010

To all 8th grade parents and students and the MISSIONS TEAM of 2011,

The eighth grade mission trips have been an annual event for our 8th graders SINCE 1991 at Ft. Myers Christian – **THIS WILL BE OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY!** Several members of our early trips are either currently involved in full-time ministry or preparing for it! Many families have stated that it has been one of the reasons why they have brought their children to Ft. Myers Christian School. I have seen the Lord do some incredible things in the lives of students AND adults in Mexico and Corpus Christi, Texas – God has been good!

Objectives for the trip:

1. It created an end of the year trip that does not center on the the kids doing something just for themselves. (example - raising money all year for a trip to Disney)
2. Opens their thoughts to serving God and others, as well experiencing His “great commission”

Note of caution: do not expect this trip to be a total “fix-it” for your son/daughter; but, it will help them see life differently!

When the violence in Juarez, Mexico reached a certain level a couple of years ago, the Lord directed our trip to Corpus Christi, Texas. Last year we had an EXCELLENT TRIP! I would encourage you to check out our blog and find out about the ministry, the ranch, and the great time that we had serving the Lord and the people of Corpus Christi - <http://fmcsmissions.blogspot.com/>

The airline reservations have been set for **March 30th to April 5, 2011**, and the time to begin to prepare is NOW:

a) **PRAYER NEEDED!** Pray about going! No missions trip can happen without prayer! Start with praying for our missionary, Edwin Rivera and his family. There is a link to their ministry on our blog for the Mexico Trip.

b) **MONEY NEEDED!** Start earning and saving money - NOW! EVERY STUDENT, who has wanted to go AND WORKED FOR IT, has always had the money to go! The Lord has come through! The cost is **\$1050**. (Cost is determined by airfare – with increases in gas and baggage fees, groceries, supplies, lodging, van rental expenses, size of group, trip to the USS Lexington, ministry t-shirts, etc.) A **non-refundable** deposit of \$50 and the student application will be due by August 27th. (Deposits and application deadlines apply to all adult sponsors as well)

c) **RAISING MONEY NOW** - support letters, arrange car washes with some of the people that want to go; baby-sit; mow lawns, A-a-thon (example: students get people to sponsor them for every “A” they get on their first quarter report card); selling wrapping paper in our fall fundraiser (25% of your sales go towards your missions trip), etc. **There is also another very important factor: PARENTS!**

d) PARENTS NEEDED FOR FUNDRAISERS: We will need a group of parents who will help coordinate fundraisers with the kids. If you are interested in this very important project, please call me at the school. We will need to coordinate fundraisers with the school, so that we don't "fundraise" everybody out! Parents will be needed to sponsor car washes and other fundraisers.

e) **INFO:** when we return next fall, there will be a meeting at Open House (8/19) with more information.

f) SPONSORS: there will be several staff members that will be headed to Corpus Christi, **but** we have also been blessed with parents and alumni that want to attend as well. We are always in need of:

- Medical personnel
- Ministry leaders
- Van drivers
- Parents who are looking to have a great experience with their students and friends!
- Those with a heart of a servant! You can have a great time on the trip!

The cost for sponsors will also be \$1050. We will take a look at each person's application and notify them if we have any questions.

If you have any questions, please call me at the school (939-4642) or email me at MMitchell@fmcs-fl.org. An even better idea would be to talk to any of the students, or their parents, who have participated in the past. (I can help you with a list if you need it)

Reminder: You can go to the missions blog and stay updated on next year's trip, read about this year's trip and how it impacted lives in Ft. Myers and Corpus Christi for eternity! I want to get this letter out to you now so that you can plan, raise and save money as soon as possible – **it has now been an eternal investment TWENTY YEARS and you do not want to pass it up.**

In His Service,

Mel Mitchell
Principal