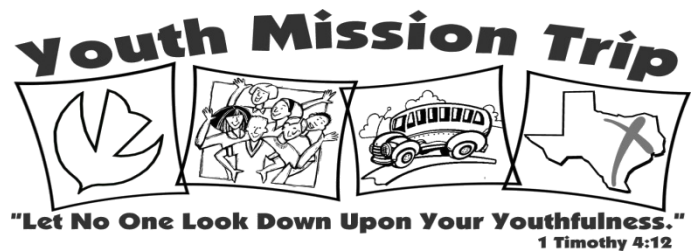


GENERAL INFORMATION
Mission Trip 2024
Sunday, June 2 – Sunday, June 9



ARE YOU READY?! **MISSION TRIP 2024** will be here before we know it! We are once again preparing for this year's journey to Willacy County (Raymondville, Lyford, Sebastian), TX! Our journeys and ministries in the South Texas Valley have continually proven to be a significant transformative experience for every Mission Tripper, as well as all the children and youth who attend our Extreme VBS ministry. As a church body, we have completed many mission trips in this region of Texas, by serving Christ and His church in Matamoros, Reynosa, Harlingen, Weslaco, Mercedes, and now Lyford, Sebastian, and Raymondville, TX. With every opportunity, Christ has abundantly blessed us, even more than anyone could ever explain or even imagine, and we anticipate another outpouring of His overcoming mercy and powerful presence upon **MISSION TRIP 2024**. During our trips, we continuously see the expansion of Christ's Kingdom as children and youth of all ages are touched by our Lord's immeasurable love and experience genuine manifestations of grace and truth through the simple Gospel message of Jesus Christ! Inevitably, each of us on the 2023 team will be positively impacted by the incredible ministry of God's Holy Spirit!

This year, our plan is to use the facilities once again as provided by Lyford CISD, including use of middle school facilities, gymnasium, cafeteria with a concert stage, clean restrooms, adequate classrooms, great drop-off/unloading areas, and the perfect courtyard for our Raspa (sno-cone) operations and personal evangelism. Most construction from 2023 is complete! There are a few areas still being worked on, however, this should not pose any real issues.

Our partnership with Rio Life Community Church in Mercedes, Texas with Sr. Pastor Hector Villanueva and Pastor/Elder Abraham Martinez will continue. In addition, we are joined by Pastor Phil Baragas (former WOF Ministry Staff) of Riding With Christ Cowboy Ministry and his ministry team from Hardin, Texas, youth and adults from both Victory Baptist and The Fellowship Church in the northeast Austin area, a group representing the All Stars Youth Banjo Band, Gathering of the Redeemed, Centro De Fe, and Hutto Community Church will all join in for this year's adventure! It's amazing to see how our trips have grown and how many respective ministries are represented each year!

The Lord is already at work, opening doors and providing opportunities for ministry as well as community outreach! I am confident that even more opportunities will arise for every participant, both youth and adult alike, who join **MISSION TRIP 2024**. Our consistent and persistent prayer remains that each individual and every church represented will be found faithful in answering our Lord's call as we come together and serve Him; one beautifully unified body of Jesus Christ in purpose and cause!

Expenses related to this year's Mission Trip will increase slightly when accounting for gas increases, food increases, and inevitable van rental increases. However, the registration fees will not increase from the \$315.00 in 2023. Our family discounts for families with more than one youth participating will continue.

Attached you'll find some detailed information concerning **MISSION TRIP 2024**. Please review this material carefully. We will answer all your questions during training and preparation meetings. Don't forget, your participation in a scheduled training/preparation meeting (in your area) is required, because each individual plays a significant and essential role in this year's ministry.

2024 PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES:

MISSION TRIP YOUTH -- consists of young people who are by age and school classification "currently" (*as of February 2024*) in grades 6-12 only.

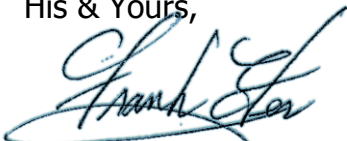
MISSION TRIP ADULTS -- are those participants "currently" (*as of February 2024*) beyond high school (grade 12)

CHILDREN -- Due to the complexity of issues related to underage participants in the past, children will not be allowed to participate or accompany participants on this year's Youth Mission Trip.

CHILD EXCEPTIONS -- An approved child – who is: 1) at least 11 years old, 2) has finished the 5th grade (*by June 2024*), and/or 3) approved by our leadership team – may participate ***only if*** their parent(s), grandparent(s), relative(s) or legal guardian(s) serve(s) as their room sponsor, either in one of our "youth" rooms or in his/her *own* hotel room at their *own* expense.

As always, I'm excited about **MISSION TRIP 2024** and all the opportunities that will be afforded us by the Lord through this year's ministry in South Texas. It will be an almost indescribable joy, blessing without measure, and priceless honor to minister alongside each of you during **MISSION TRIP 2024**. I'm praying right now for this year's trip, and I'd like you to join me in that effort as well. May we come before Him and seek our Lord's heart ... May His glorious name be exalted in all and above all during **MT 2024**! Let every soul be touched and every single heart be transformed in some way by the intrinsic working of God's Holy Spirit as we diligently and passionately prepare to launch this remarkable ministry, full of grace and truth!

His & Yours,



Lead Pastor, Frank Estes
West Oaks Fellowship

YOUTH REGISTRATION

(Youth are classified as students currently in grades 6-12 by both age and school classification.)

- A. All Youth **Mission Trip 2024** participants must have an approved application, release, medical form, and agreement filled out, signed by one parent/legal guardian, and turned in on or before **May 19th, 2024**. The YOUTH application must be filled out online at westoaksfellowship.org, under the "Events" tab. No Youth will be allowed to participate in **Mission Trip 2024** without these forms being turned in and on file in the church office.
- B. The Participation Fee for WOF Youth is **\$315.00**. *(See below for discounts on families with 2 or more participating.)* These fees are designated to cover housing expenses, some food costs and a portion of the transportation costs. The balance of expenses, transportation costs, and supplies needed for the trip *(Vacation Bible School and ministry activities)* are funded through the generous love offerings from the congregation of West Oaks Fellowship, other donations from individuals outside our body, and possibly some fund-raising efforts. Please start turning in your Youth Participation Fees as soon as possible (we accept bank drafts/credit/debit cards at westoaksfellowship.org) ... each youth participant has a separate account. **All fees need to be received by June 1st, 2024.** **If you cannot pay on time/in full, you MUST have a payment plan or other means of compensation in place before June 1st, 2024.**

ADULT REGISTRATION

- A. All Adult **Mission Trip 2024** participants must have an approved application, medical form, and agreement filled out and turned in on or before **May 19th, 2024**. The ADULT application must be filled out online at westoaksfellowship.org, under the "Events" tab. No Adults will be allowed to participate in **Mission Trip 2024** without these forms being turned in and on file in the church office.
- B. The Participation Fee for WOF Adults is **\$315.00**. *(See below for discounts on families with 2 or more participating.)* These fees are designated to cover housing expenses, some food costs and a portion of the transportation costs. The balance of expenses, transportation costs, and supplies needed for the trip *(Vacation Bible School and ministry activities)* are funded through the generous love offerings from the congregation of West Oaks Fellowship, other donations from individuals outside our body, and possibly some fund-raising efforts. Please start turning in your Adult Participation Fees as soon as possible (we accept bank drafts/credit/debit cards at westoaksfellowship.org) ... each adult participant has a separate account. **All fees must be received by June 1st, 2024.** **If you cannot pay on time/in full, you MUST have a payment plan or other means of compensation before June 1st, 2024.**
- C. An adult individual or couple who are not a room sponsor may make special arrangements through WOF Staff to secure and pay for their own on-site/on-location private hotel room. However, a registration fee of **\$220.00** per person is still required. *(Please note, adults providing their own on-site accommodations are not counted as "Participants" for family discounts.)*

Registration Fee Discounts

<i>Participants In Family</i>	<i>Family Total</i>		<i>Effective Family Savings</i>
2 persons	\$ 630.00	\$ 580.00	\$ 50.00
3 persons	\$ 945.00	\$ 840.00	\$145.00
4 persons	\$1,260.00	\$1,040.00	\$220.00
5 persons	\$1,575.00	\$1,260.00	\$315.00

(Discounts only apply to participating YOUTH and PARENTS PAYING REGULAR/FULL REGISTRATION FEES)

If you would like to make a love offering to offset the food, transportation, and supply costs for **MISSION TRIP 2024**, please use the designated **MISSION TRIP 2024** Special Offering Envelopes that will become available on Sunday mornings soon, or go to westoaksfellowship.org, click on "give" and "offering", then enter your amount under the Mission Trip 2024 Donation fund. Your gifts are needed and appreciated.

TRAVEL

- A. Departure Time – Our journey will begin just before noon on Sunday, June 2nd, 2024. All **MISSION TRIP 2024** participants will need to arrive at the church by 10 AM for check-in at the Awana Building.
- B. In order to accommodate our schedule and a prompt departure, **all luggage, equipment** and/or **supplies** will be loaded on Saturday, June 1st. For those in the Houston area or traveling with us from West Oaks Fellowship, this means that all luggage (**other than carry on**) must be delivered to the church on Saturday, June 1st between 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM. Luggage, equipment and supplies do not include one small carry-on bag or backpack, which you may keep with you in the van while traveling.
- C. Lunch Sunday, June 2nd will be served and consumed en route to Raymondville, TX. Two rest stops are allocated for participants, in Victoria, TX and Kingsville, TX, to use the restroom or stretch their legs. The vans may need to fuel up in Robstown, TX [participants will not exit the van at the gas stop].
- D. ETA – We are anticipating arriving in Raymondville, Texas, around 5:30 PM. Upon our arrival, we will check in and unload our luggage at the hotel and eat supper. (**We will unload equipment and supplies at the school after canvassing on Monday afternoon.**)
- E. Phone Home – Upon arrival at the hotel, each youth participant will be instructed to call home and provide his/her parent/guardian with their room number and any other contact information that may be needed.
- F. Returning Home – We plan to leave Raymondville, Texas on Saturday, June 8th at 9:30 AM. We will make two stops on the way home (*1 for fuel and lunch in Robstown, TX, and 1 restroom break in Victoria, TX*). Our first stop will be for lunch, just north of Corpus Christi, Texas around 11:15 AM.
All Mission Trip participants will need to save some cash for this meal (\$10-\$15).
- G. ETA - Our goal is to arrive in the WOF parking lot at or before 4:00 PM. Immediately upon arrival, all participants will be occupied in unloading trailers and cleaning vans. No one will be released until all equipment, supplies, etc. are unloaded and put away, and all vans are cleaned. This will take approximately one hour, and parents will be notified concerning pick-up as we are nearing completion of this important final task of **MISSION TRIP 2024**. So, youth will be ready for pick-up around 5:00 PM. If for some reason you are not able to pick up your youth, please make appropriate arrangements with another parent/individual for your returning mission tripper.

SPECIAL NOTE: All mission trippers will be tired, but full of stories. Please try to get in bed by a decent time Saturday night so we can be up, alert, and ready to participate in our Mission Trip Special Report Sunday, June 9th (10:30 AM service only with TEAL SHIRTS ON)!

LUGGAGE

- A. Each **Mission Trip 2024** participant will be allowed 1 large suitcase and one backpack or carry-on type bag for their clothing and personal items. You may want to bring along a pillow as well. If you require more than one bag, please inform us as soon as possible.
- B. Special bags, cases, etc., for equipment and/or supplies which will be used for ministry purposes are welcome without restriction. However, please provide a list of any and all special items that you'll be bringing and turn it in during our next training meeting.
- C. All **Mission Trip 2024** participants' luggage must be delivered to West Oaks Fellowship on Saturday, June 1st between 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM. For those traveling with us from West Oaks Fellowship, please know that **no luggage can be accepted or loaded on our departure date, Sunday, June 2nd.**

SIDE TRIPS

Extra excursions are being considered to increase the enjoyment and entertainment value of **Mission Trip 2024**.

Shopping: Rio Grande Valley Premium Outlet Mall (MONDAY AFTERNOON)
Water Park: Beach Park at Isla Blanca (TUESDAY AFTERNOON)

ADDITIONAL COSTS

All participants will need a total of \$10-\$15 for lunch on the way home. No other money is required, but you are welcome to bring spending money for our side trips and late-night evening snacks at Whataburger (next door to our Hotel in Raymondville).

LAUNDRY

- A. Washers and dryers will be available and are conveniently inside of our hotel. Times will be allotted to wash clothes and accommodate for the laundry needs of **Mission Trip 2024** participants.
- B. Ministry shirts are collected nightly, and washed by the Hotel staff at no cost to participants ... your help and cooperation in this effort is required.

SCHEDULE

A preliminary schedule, including daily activities, will be prepared, distributed, and reviewed during **Mission Trip 2024** Training Meetings. If you have any questions related to any activities or events, please address them at our training meetings. We desire everyone to be fully aware and informed concerning the activities and expectations related to this year's mission trip.

DRESS CODE

- A. Due to difficulties in the past, and the ever present need to maintain a good testimony, a strict dress code is required at all times for all participants. Clothing must be considered **loose fitting, modest**, and must not display/promote anything contrary to Christian values. For example, clothes with any defamatory writing, non-Christian bands, torn or ripped clothing, etc. will not be allowed at any point during **Mission Trip 2024**. However, modest sportswear with small emblems, symbols, company logos, etc. are fine.
 - Cover-ups for all males and females are required for traveling to and from the pool, pool area, and anytime one is wearing a bathing suit and not actually in the water.

- No two-piece bathing suits will be allowed with the exception of properly fitting “tankinis” that cover the midriff.
- ***No tank tops will be allowed at any time, including to the pool or Schlitterbahn.***

B. An even stricter dress code is required for specific ministry activities. Some of these requirements are implemented for safety reasons, and others are in reference to exemplifying a proper testimony.

- Designated VBS polo shirts (purchased beforehand), as specified by the daily schedule, must be worn during all ministry events.
- Modest, loose fitting shorts, of any color (no camo), at least finger-tip length or longer, may be worn during VBS events. *However, **no jeans**, cut-offs, un-hemmed shorts, or basketball/athletic shorts are allowed.*
- No jogging/sports/sweat/coach’s pants are allowed during any VBS ministry.
- Modest, loose fitting jeans may be worn only at specified times.
- No open-toed shoes, sandals, slides, crocs, etc. may be worn during “teal shirt” times. Our highest recommendation is that you wear tennis shoes at all times, but you *must* wear close-toed shoes during “teal shirt” times.

MUSIC, GAMES, YOUTH CELL PHONES, ETC.

Participants are allowed to bring music of various types for their personal use. However, all music, including that on one’s phone, iPod, computer, etc. should be, without question, Christ-honoring! Any profane or disrespectful music being played during **Mission Trip 2024** will be cause for immediate confiscation of said device. These items may be used/listened to while traveling to and from Lyford, Texas, during side trips, or during individual time in the evenings. Personal electronic or mechanical gaming systems, such as Nintendo DS, Switch, PSP, etc., cannot be used or carried to and from the hotel, during any ministry event, or at any other time, except for use in one’s own individual hotel room. West Oaks Fellowship does not and cannot accept any responsibility for the loss or damage of any of these or other personal items.

Youth cell phone usage will not be permitted during any ministry event, (*i.e. canvassing, nightly meetings, VBS, etc.*), unless there is a true emergency necessitating cell phone use; said phones will be subject to confiscation for any youth who violates this policy. The youth will be allowed to use their cell phones while on the hotel premises and/or during side trips, at the discretion of their room sponsor or any other **Mission Trip 2024** adult. West Oaks Fellowship does not and cannot accept any responsibility regarding the loss of a cell phone.

While traveling, the playing (*or not playing*) of the vehicle’s radio and or music/video system within a particular vehicle will be at the choice, selection, and sole discretion of the driver(s) assigned to that specific vehicle.

BEVERAGES

The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during **Mission Trip 2024**. In addition, due to the possible medical side effects, the consumption of Energy Drinks will also be prohibited. These drinks include, but are not limited to: Meltdown, Monster, XS Energy, Red Bull, Rock Star, Full Throttle, Burn, 5-Hour Energy, AMP Energy, Nos, Bang, etc.

ORDER/CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE ISSUES

Our intention is for every participant, young, and not so young to have a great experience on **Mission Trip 2024**. In order for that to occur, certain guidelines, such as ministry assignments, dress codes, chores, riding assignments, lock-in times, etc., must be upheld. At the same time, there is often a need for flexibility due to unforeseen circumstances and/or ministry opportunities that become apparent. Therefore, we seek peaceful and respectful cooperation from all parties. This is an attitude that can be adopted in advance and is strongly recommended, because without a doubt, something is going to happen that will give you an opportunity to gripe, complain, shout, whine, grumble, mumble, get upset, cry, etc. May all of us put on Christ and selflessly (*not selfishly*) stay focused on our purpose and mission.

Here are some things to consider:

- A. Our Youth will be granted plenty of time for fun and messing around, but there is also a time for prayer, hard work, serving others, and ministry. As Solomon, the wisest man in the entire world, declared, "There is a time for every purpose under heaven."
- B. Responsible youth may and will be granted greater privileges and freedoms.
- C. Non-cooperative, irresponsible youth will be granted less privileges and fewer freedoms.
- D. Trust and Truth are **GIANT** in times like these – don't try to trick, deceive, or lie. Speak the truth in love and you'll be blessed, rewarded, etc.
- E. Scheduled lock-in times will be modified based on need.
- F. Each youth will have some assigned specific responsibilities. Those that do well will be rewarded; those who resist or reluctantly cooperate will not be rewarded and may be required to work out that "bad" attitude!
- G. **There will be no intimate physical contact between youth during the trip!**
- H. If serious behavioral problems persist, the violator will be personally confronted concerning their improper actions, and warned that if the problem isn't corrected immediately they will face appropriate consequences and discipline. A direct chain of command/leadership will be presented and discussed in **Mission Trip 2024** Training Meetings.
- I. If things are broken due to careless, unwise, or improper behavior, appropriate retribution will be made/paid by the one(s) causing the damage or destruction.
- J. After three strikes, a decision may be made to send a youth home early from the trip. If the decision *is* made to send a youth home, the parent(s) will be contacted and arrangements will be made for disruptive youth to return home.
- K. **Remember, we are guests at a hotel with other people. Please be courteous to the other guests and to the hotel staff. This means no loud noise from the parking lot (especially when we return late from worship, sometimes as late as midnight!), no running throughout the hallways/lobby, and staying quiet once inside your hotel room.**

PARTICIPANTS

A current list of participants in **Mission Trip 2024** is being prepared for distribution. Please consider faithfully praying over each name on this list and making intercession as God's Holy Spirit leads you for all our youth and adults who are serving in this year's ministry.

PRAYER GUIDE

A Prayer Guide will be prepared and distributed to all participants and the entire church body. We need everyone praying diligently, even now, for **Mission Trip 2024** and its effectiveness, both in the lives of those in Raymondville/Lyford/Sebastian, Texas, and also for all those who are participating from WOF and other cooperating churches/ministries!

TRAINING IN HOUSTON (Separate arrangements will be made for those from other communities)

We will have JUST ONE training meeting for **Mission Trip 2024**: Sunday, May 19th, from 6:00-8:00pm. We have a lot to cover and prepare in one short meeting. Please make every effort to be on time for our meeting - this will help us get everything done promptly and finished on time!

For Rookies (1st time Mission Trippers or those who have not participated in *five* years or more), there will be a Rookie Meeting on Sunday, May 5th immediately following our 10:30AM worship service. All Rookies are required to attend this meeting in order to be considered for **Mission Trip 2024**.

QUESTIONS

Please ask your questions openly and publicly during our **Mission Trip 2024** Training Meetings! This method usually helps everyone gain clearer understanding. Nothing is "out of bounds" for our youth or any of the adult participants to ask. Open communication and information are always welcome, needed, and appreciated. Also, please feel free to contact Pastor Jacob regarding any administrative, payment, or youth issues, or Pastor Frank with any other questions or concerns.

INVESTMENT

Our **Mission Trip 2024** undertaking requires a tremendous investment of resources, both in money and time, including countless hours of planning, travel, communication, preparation, and prayer. Additionally, a lot of God's precious resources (*time, energy, money, etc.*) will be expended in just a few short days during this ministry opportunity. However, the long-term, kingdom-building benefit of this work and service is, without question, invaluable! Therefore, each and every participant is being asked to embrace a "God-sized" vision, as well as hope for (*faith-based confident expectation*) and anticipate some "God-sized" help. Let's begin now, asking and expecting the Lord's power and presence to be demonstrated mightily in each and every one of our youth, as well as in all the loyal and faithful adult servants who are accompanying us on this journey.

PRAYER

Please join us, even now, in praying:

- 1) That every one of our brothers and sisters in Christ from West Oaks Fellowship and all the other churches that unite in this effort be used mightily by our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2) That the guiding presence and supernatural strength of His Holy Spirit be poured out abundantly upon every person and in every situation/circumstance!
- 3) That we (*both collectively and individually*), in cooperation with Christ as His servants, successfully throw open wide the gates of heaven, allowing many to come out of darkness into His glorious, eternal Kingdom of Light and Truth!

SCHOLARSHIPS/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (For West Oaks Fellowship Participants)

The criteria for receiving financial assistance for ~~Mission Trip~~ **Mission Trip 2024** is as follows:

1. You must tell the church staff that you are in need of financial assistance, and the amount you will actually need (*i.e. full, partial scholarship, etc.*) as soon as possible.
2. You must demonstrate commitment to and participate in the WOF ministry programs.
3. You must attend ALL informational meetings.
4. You must participate in ALL fundraising programs/events if offered.
5. You may be required to "work off" some of the money received as a scholarship.

As staff at WOF, we commit to being good stewards of our finances and creating and maintaining financially sustainable programs. We desire to help develop and encourage good financial stewardship, accountability, and responsible commitment among the Body of Christ. Our goal is to be able to provide financial assistance for those who truly need it and who demonstrate engagement in and commitment to the WOF body.

CONTACT INFORMATION

A. Our Official Staff/Leadership may be reached at the following numbers:

- WOF Mission Trip Cell Phone: 956-246-1111 (*Spanish Message*)
- Pastor Jacob's (Associate Pastor) Cell Phone: 281-690-2109
- Pastor Frank's (Senior Pastor) Cell Phone: 832-419-9349

B. Hotel

- **La Quinta Inns & Suites – 128 US 77 Frontage Rd, Raymondville, TX 78580, Ph: 956-689-4000**

Youth Mission Trip



**"Let No One Look Down Upon Your Youthfulness."
1 Timothy 4:12**

Wof Mission Trip 2024 **Sunday, June 2 – Sunday, June 9**

By signing below, I am indicating that I have read and understood the information included in the Mission Trip packet, and commit to adhering to and abiding by all of the guidelines stated therein.

Participant's Signature

Date

If participant is attending as a Youth, (12th grade or younger), we request the parent and/or legal guardian to also acknowledge that they have read and understood the information included in the Mission Trip packet.

Parent and/or Legal Guardian

Date