



Forward Edge International

OAXACA, Mexico

Palau Team (Team # 495)

November 8-17, 2008

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

The state of **Oaxaca**, located in southern Mexico, is known as "Tierra del Sol", Land of the Sun. This is a region of intense beauty blessed with rugged mountains, verdant valleys and a beautiful coast on the Pacific Ocean.

Rich in culture, tradition, and history, Oaxaca is home to one of the largest concentrations of indigenous people in the world; more than 150 languages are spoken in the state of Oaxaca.

When the Spaniards arrived in 1521, they found a cultural mosaic of people whose lives were ruled by rites and traditions. A colorful mix of handcrafts, art and festivities reflect their depth of history.

Sadly, Oaxaca is also a place of significant poverty. High rates of illiteracy, malnutrition and infant mortality dominate the region, especially in the Native population. Most people live in farming villages without electricity or clean water. Typically, impoverished families survive on a meager diet of beans and tortillas.



Two children spend time with team members.



Villages are scattered in the mountains that surround Oaxaca City, and ministry to these areas is varied. Disease and poverty are rampant in these primitive villages; the people are desperate for basic help, for hope!



A man waits for help at a local clinic.

Everyone should have an opportunity to change a LIFE.

OAXACA FACTS

Only **7%** of the population is Christian.

In Oaxaca, more than **50%** of all homes have dirt floors.

A concrete floor typically costs **\$200**—an entire year's wages.



A volunteer plays with a local boy.

WHO IS LUIS PALAU?

World evangelist and author, Luis Palau, has shared the gospel with more than 25 million people in 72 countries around the world in his 40 years of ministry. He is now bringing his gospel message to the people of Oaxaca for the first time in November 2008.

OAXACA, Mexico

(Luis Palau Team continued)

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Your team will join our Mexican ministry partners to serve impoverished villages surrounding Oaxaca City. We will work among the villagers to help diminish the risk of disease by pouring concrete pads—called pisos—in their homes, serving and loving these people as God loves us. Medical and dental teams can also assist with basic health needs in villages and at the Festival site.

Your team will also serve the local children through soccer games (a universal language), Bible stories, crafts, and song. Most of these children have never had a toy of their own.

During the actual Festival, you will attend to the people in Oaxaca City.

COST

The team fee for this trip is **\$795**. This fee covers preparatory materials, accommodations, meals, transportation in Oaxaca, some construction materials and an on-site facilitator. *Airfare and travel insurance are not included in this fee.*

ACCOMMODATIONS

We will be housed in Oaxaca City at a YWAM facility and at other ministry guest houses.

We will join our Mexican ministry partners, local Christian organizations in Oaxaca City and outlying areas to serve this community.

TO KNOW

Culturally, it is important to bring small gifts as a sign of appreciation for your hosts. Please talk as a team about what you could bring to bless those who serve you in Oaxaca, Mexico! Souvenirs from your home state, towels, calendars, chocolate and tea are always great gifts.

PASSPORT

A passport is now required to enter Mexico. Please make three copies of your passport. Leave one at home and bring two with you.

PREPARATION

As soon as Forward Edge receives completed applications, we'll send you a team pack: T-shirt, training materials and information on Oaxaca. Please contact Sandee Hallock for more information at **360.574.3343** or **sandee@forwardedge.org**.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 8, 2008:
Application & Liability
Release Form DUE.

September 8, 2008:
Half Payment DUE.

October 8, 2008:
Full Payment DUE.

October 23, 2008:
Trip/Travel Insurance
SECURED for team.



Friendships are built in Oaxaca.

Ordinary People. Extraordinary Purpose.

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