

# CHCA Intercession 2024

May 20-30, 2024

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Course Name: <b>Back 2 Back Mexico Service Immersion</b>	
Instructor(s): <b>TBD</b>	
Course Type: <b>International</b>	Service Hours: <b>45</b>
Maximum enrollment: <b>15</b>	Minimum enrollment: <b>10</b>
Length of trip (if applicable): <b>7 days</b>	<b>6 nights</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 2,800</b>

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The Back 2 Back Mexico Intercession is an opportunity for students to experience Mazatlán, Mexico by serving its most vulnerable population – the children.

This mission trip allows students to pour out their time, talents, skills, and care in order to better the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children who rely on volunteers for help.

## Overview:

Building relationships, helping with work projects, and providing fun, playful moments for these children is a life-changing opportunity not only for the children of Mexico but for all of us who attend. This trip will undoubtedly be a chance to share Christ's love and to receive it in ways we can't imagine. Besides an immersive service experience this is also a direct service opportunity.

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## Course Goals:

- To care for orphaned and vulnerable children in Mexico
  - To put our gifts and talents at the service of these children by participating in projects such as concrete work (breaking up, mixing, pouring), painting, plumbing, etc. All jobs will be assigned based on skill-level and ability. There's something for everyone! As well as intentional play time with the children.
  - To experience the unique culture of Mexico and through it gain a more profound understanding of our global citizenship and the role of the Christian as part of it
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## Writing Component:

Students will journal daily and will complete the immersion with an overall reflection of their experience.

Back2Back Ministries (B2B) is an international Christian non-profit organization dedicated to being a voice for orphans. They exist to love and care for orphaned and vulnerable children by meeting their spiritual, physical, educational, emotional, and social needs that they might overcome their life circumstances and break free from the cycle of generational poverty.

B2B partners with children's homes and local ministries who are already involved in caring for orphaned and vulnerable children, as well as impoverished communities. They also partner with individuals, schools, churches, civic groups, and businesses to create a bridge between people in need and people with resources.

During our week-long mission trip, students will work alongside B2B staff members who serve at each ministry location. Our group will have the opportunity to provide much-needed help with projects to improve the children's homes and communities Back 2 Back serves.

## Where do we stay?

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In **Mazatlán**, Mexico B2B offers groups serving with them housing in a long-term rental Airbnb. They have two Airbnb rentals situated two houses apart from each other. They are in an area of town where B2B staff permanently lives so they will also be nearby. Houses will be separated by gender.

## What do we eat?

Well-rounded meals are provided, and authentic meals prepared by in-country staff are also available. In some instances, teams will have opportunities to enjoy local, or American, cuisine at restaurants. Safe drinking water is provided at all times.

## Dietary Allergies

Let your CHCA contact know if you have any food allergies before your trip. **Back 2 Back is unable to accommodate dietary restrictions**, so please come prepared with your own meal and snack replacements. Please bring an epi-pen if you need one for your allergy.

## How do we travel once we arrive in country?

To ensure safety, we always travel by chartered buses or vans/staff vehicles.

## What is a typical day like?

During the day, teams serve in local communities, or in area children's homes. B2B strives to create a balance of work projects and intentional play-time with the children.

## What kinds of projects do we work on?

Work projects are determined by the needs of a particular home or community. Site staff work closely with in-country, national partners to determine the projects most important to meet the children's needs. Projects will vary in terms of demand and skill level. They will be assigned to teams based on their abilities. There is something for everyone.

## Do we get to play with the children? How many children are at the homes?

Absolutely! B2B intentionally includes opportunities for teams to connect with the children through play. Some children's homes have dozens of children, some only have ten. The villages we serve have between 100-300 families.

## Do we need to be able to speak the language?

Although those who speak the language are at an advantage, it's been said only 7% of communication is verbal, so you can "say" a lot without words! B2B staff who are fluent in the local language translate for teams when necessary.

## Do we evangelize?

Back2Back is a ministry centered on relationship by serving the "least of these." They desire and pray each child and family they serve comes to know Jesus as their personal Savior. As they focus on serving and building lasting relationships, they use this as a platform to share God's love and His desire for us to know, and be known by, Him. B2B does not withhold services from any child or home based on religion. They serve all children alike regardless of their faith or creed and do not require any child to adhere to Christian faith to receive services.

## What will a typical day look like?

We strive for consistency, but each site may look a little different due to cultural differences. The following schedule is just an example.

- Breakfast

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- Personal devotions / Reflection time
- Bible study in a small group
- Work projects
- Lunch
- Quality time with children or continue work projects
- Dinner
- Group debriefing led by Back2Back Staff
- Free time
- Lights out

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**This course is well suited to:**

Any student who has a passion for serving and caring for children, are open to being immersed in a new culture very different from our own, and comfortable with international travel away from family.

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**Cost:** \$ 2,800

**Additional costs:**

Students will need money for souvenirs, food on travel days and snacks, suggested amount of at least \$150.

Students will need a valid U. S. passport, please apply if needed or if passport will expire before November 30, 2024. Passport information will be requested when registering in UltraCamp.

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## Other Information:

### Transportation

Course will meet at the airport 2.5 hours before our flight and will be picked up at airport upon our return. Families are responsible for transportation to and from the airport. Due to the location in Mexico, we may not be able to use CVG, flights may go from Dayton, Indianapolis or Columbus in order to minimize travel time.

### Immunizations

Consult with your doctor. The following vaccinations are recommended by the CDC and WHO for travelers to Mexico. Some of these vaccinations are routine for many US citizens. In these cases, they should be up to date.

- Recommended travel vaccinations for Mexico:  
COVID-19, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Typhoid (especially for those staying in smaller cities or rural areas), Rabies (Rabid dogs are commonly found in Mexico. However, if you are bitten or scratched while in Mexico, rabies treatment is often available. Consider rabies vaccinations before your trip if your activities mean you will be around dogs or wildlife).

### Insurance

Your mission trip fee includes Emergency Medical Insurance that Back2Back purchases for us. This is different from travel insurance that can be purchased through travel agents and covers such things as unexpected recurrence of a pre-existing condition, emergency medical evacuation/repatriation, return of minor children, and emergency medical reunion. Back2Back also carries comprehensive general liability insurance for all international travelers.

This is not the same as travel cancellation insurance which is suggested as this is not an option available for this trip.

### Suggested Medication

We recommend Ciprofloxacin (Cipro) and any over-the-counter medications as needed for allergies, pain relief, digestive issues, or motion sickness. CHCA Self-Medication Agreement required to carry medications.

### Money

Besides the recommended \$150 for airport food, snacks, and souvenirs, Back to Back encourages to think about bringing a credit card for use at the airport or in case of emergency

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