**Vineyard Ministries Central Mexico (VMCM) Internship Program**

**Purpose:** Many people who attend a short term mission trip long for something more in depth. While a week can open eyes and hearts, spending more time on the field exposes people to missions behind the scenes. We hope people will experience life as a missionary and develop a great understanding of and appreciation for living and working within a different culture. The purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for longer term although not permanent missionary experience. It is key to the internship success to embrace the concept of servanthood as this an integral part of our ministry.

**Intern vs Volunteer:** An intern is not a volunteer. Volunteers are tourists or residents who spend as much or as little time as they like helping VMCM in whatever capacity they choose. An intern is a staff member and co-missionary with missionaries serving on staff at VMCM. The intern must work full time for VMCM in whatever capacity they are given. Usually interns shadow a missionary. While volunteers are always needed and help run the organization, interns receive a much more in depth and authentic missions’ experience. Often interns may be exploring the possibility of becoming a full-time missionary. The internship is designed with those people in mind, although it is open to anyone.

**Time:** An internship may be any time frame from 2 weeks to 1 year. However, longer experiences are generally more fruitful.

**Cost:** As an intern, you are responsible to cover 100% of your travel expenses as well as your own transportation to/from Mazatlan and extra expenses incurred while here, including but not limited to: clothing, dining out in restaurants, recreation, transportation when doing non-missions activities, etc. Interns are also expected to cover $500USD a month for room and board. Interns may be sponsored by a church. In return the intern will receive housing, some meals, and mission experience.

*\*An intern must also purchase an international health insurance policy of some kind on their own prior to arrival, or must provide a signature of a parent or guardian on a waiver indicating that they understand the serious consequences of not having such insurance and choose to be uninsured. Please provide us with a copy of the insurance card for VMCM files.*

**Spanish:** Although being fluent in Spanish is certainly not a requirement, interns will tend to learn more and have a better overall experience if they are able to communicate with nationals. We do require that all interns attempt to learn some Spanish while they are here. Interns may take Spanish classes here, hire a Spanish tutor, study Spanish books, or simply attempt to talk with people, but must make some effort.

**Expectations:**

* Interns are strongly encouraged to attend a week long mission trip to Mazatlan with a team before applying as an intern. Previous experience has shown that interns who had been to Mazatlan before had a better idea of what to expect and a better overall experience.
* **Drinking/Smoking** – Regardless of personal feelings or beliefs, interns are expected not to drink alcohol of any kind for the duration of their internship. Interns are also expected NOT to go to night clubs. Ideally interns would not smoke (including vaping/e-cigarettes) while they are here. *As a missionary in a different culture, different rules must guide the intern’s actions and behaviors at all times. In Mexico, unlike other North American or western countries, sipping a beer could quite possibly render missionary’s ministry & outreach totally ineffectual!*
* **Dress Expectations** – Remember when packing that erring on the side of modesty will not offend anyone. Keep in mind, what an American considers conservative dressing may not fall under a Mexican’s definition of conservative dressing. Mexico has a more traditional culture, so even if interns are used to wearing t-shirts every day, they will feel more at home if they bring along a few nicer shirts as well, especially for church services. Although sandals keep feet cool, they also are more dangerous when walking on colonia dirt streets. Streets often have animal waste, sharp objects, and biting insects that closed toe shoes will keep out. Women should pack an appropriate bathing suit that covers midriff and backside. Men should bring dress pants for church.
* **Work Week** – The mission ministry is one of servanthood. Interns must understand that their overall agenda and daily schedules are not their own. Interns are expected to work 5 ½ days a week. Each intern will be allotted one day off (Monday). The intern may or may not have a say in what he or she will be doing any given day. Expect to work 50-60 hours each week. This may include office work, such as answering emails, sorting donations, or making copies. On Sundays, interns are expected to attend 2 church services, unless informed otherwise (the 9am English service, an 11am Spanish service and possibly an afternoon service in a colonia church). Interns are encouraged to attend a weekly Bible study or youth group in Spanish.
* **Quiet Time** – Interns are expected to have some form of quiet time, personal time to read and study the Bible as well as pray. Missions can be stressful and hard at times. Maintaining a close personal relationship with Jesus Christ is essential. Interns may also be given books to read regarding the lives of famous missionaries or other Christian literature.
* **Reflections** – Interns are expected to write a weekly 1 page reflection on what they have experienced, likes, dislikes, cultural analysis, things he or she has learned, frustrations, and triumphs. Interns will be assigned an accountability partner in addition to doing a written reflection. This person will work with the intern on Biblical Leadership Qualities. Being honest about temptations and frustrations as an intern will enrich the overall experience in Mazatlan.
* **Relationships** – As an intern, refrain from forming romantic relationships here in Mexico. Interns are expected to devote their time and energy to the ministry, not to looking for a mate.
* **Integrity** – Interns are expected to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity at all times, respecting those in authority on VMCM staff.
* **Any violations of the above expectations may provide adequate reason for VMCM to release the intern from the internship prior to completion**. **The intern would be sent home at their own expense and their sending pastor informed of the violation.**

**Responsibilities of VMCM to the Intern –** VMCM will provide housing and some meals. Transportation in and around Mazatlan will be dealt with on an individual basis. The intern may need to rely on public transportation.

**Housing:** Interns are usually placed in a Mexican home to maximize the amount of cultural exposure they receive. Special circumstances requiring different housing, such as a disability or intern couples, will be dealt with on an individual basis, with the best interest of the intern in mind. Homes are carefully selected, ensuring that interns feel comfortable and safe in their living environment. Most interns enjoy their home experience and become very close to their host family. However, as a guest in someone else’s home, a certain level of respect is required. Interns will be held to certain rules such as curfew or where to eat in the house or levels of tidiness that the family requests. Interns will also be expected to do their own laundry and help with household chores to some degree.

**Deadlines:** Interns are required to turn in (via email) their application and any reference letters three (3) to six (6) months prior to their expected arrival date to allow time for processing. The intern will be informed within one (1) month of all requirements being received, (and probably sooner), whether or not they have been accepted to the program. At this point, a telephone interview will be set up to answer in person any additional questions, comments or concerns the intern may have.

11-21-2019

Vineyard Ministries Central Mexico (VMCM) Internship Application

Complete the application below. Save the document as your full name. **Email** a completed *application* and a *pastoral letter of recommendation* to mexicomissiontrips@hotmail.com, Intern Coordinator, three (3) months prior to arrival. **Mail** a copy of the completed application and signed pastoral letter of recommendation to Vineyard Ministries Central Mexico – Attn: VMCM Intern Coordinator – 1500 N Lincoln Ave. – Urbana, IL 61801

**Personal Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M\_\_\_ or F\_\_\_

Country of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: Single \_\_\_ Married \_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_ Separated \_\_\_

Highest Level of Education: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Home Church Information:**

Name of Sending Church: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address of Church: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Phone Number of Church: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Denomination of Church: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Pastoral Letter of Recommendation:**

Sponsoring Pastors Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Intern: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years Known: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\*Pastor must email a letter of recommendation detailing both his or her relationship to the intern and why he or she thinks the intern is a good candidate for this position. If for some reason a pastor is not the ideal sponsor (ie. Pastor hasn’t known the intern long), the candidate may provide an additional letter of recommendation from a non-pastor with the pastoral recommendation.*

List desired dates of possible internship including year: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Short Answer Questions:**

How would you describe your spoken Spanish skills?

\_\_\_ I know how to say hola, and that’s about it.

\_\_\_ I can find a bathroom and pay my cab driver if I had to.

\_\_\_ I was pretty good at Spanish in high school, but that was a long time ago.

\_\_\_ I can form simple sentences and carry on basic conversations.

\_\_\_ I understand probably about half of what I hear, but sometimes I have trouble saying what I want to say.

\_\_\_ I understand and can communicate fairly effectively, although my grammar needs some work.

\_\_\_ I am fluent.

\_\_\_ Mi español is perfecto.

How do you plan to practice and learn more Spanish while you are in Mazatlan?

With what denomination do you affiliate yourself and why?

Please list any leadership experiences you’ve had:

List your past 3 professional work experiences including the amount of time at each:

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? If yes, please explain:

Are you currently exploring the possibility of being a full-time missionary? If so, where?

List any personal characteristics, special knowledge, or skills you have that may be beneficial to VMCM:

Describe your current service in your home church:

List three (3) interesting facts about yourself that are completely irrelevant to internship:

Just for fun, list the last two movies you’ve watched, last two songs you’ve listened to, and last two books you’ve read and briefly your reactions.

**Essay/Video Questions:**

Please answer the following questions completely and concisely via essay format or via video.

What are you hoping to learn from this internship experience? Why do you want to come here? What are you hoping to get a chance to do while you are here?

Describe how you came to be a Christian and your current relationship with Christ and your local church.

Describe a time in your life that was difficult, what happened, and how you responded.

**Expectations:**

Please check the following signifying that you agree to follow the expectations.

\_\_\_ As an intern, I will attend every meeting and event I am expected to attend.

\_\_\_ As an intern, I will take my responsibilities very seriously, and I am prepared to be responsible for any keys, cell phones, vehicles, and task I may be given.

\_\_\_ I understand the pricing system, and I am prepared to pay the required fees in advance.

\_\_\_ As an intern, I commit to improving my Spanish speaking abilities.

\_\_\_ As an intern, I will not drink, smoke, or go to any night clubs.

\_\_\_ As an intern, I will dress modestly and appropriately.

\_\_\_ As an intern, I am prepared to work long, full weeks, without complaint.

\_\_\_ As an intern, I commit to maintaining a daily quiet time.

\_\_\_ As an intern, I will respect all authority and submit to what I am required to do.

\_\_\_ As an intern, I will submit all reflections and project proposals on time.

\_\_\_ As an intern, I will respect the home and family I stay with.

\_\_\_ As an intern, I will refrain from any romantic relationships in Mexico.

\_\_\_ I ascertain that all responses contained in this application are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_ I understand that violating these expectations is grounds for my dismissal, at my expense, from the internship program prior to completion.

Name & Date

By writing your name in the above space, you are electronically signing this document.

9-18-2017