

## Crowded Mexico Missions

### **DRESS CODE**

#### **THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND ABOUT DRESS CODES**

- With the exception of Western Europe, other cultures dress much more conservatively than the U.S. and Canada
- The way we dress could hurt the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- Some cultures see tank-tops and low necklines as immodest
- The North American value of personal choice has crossed over into the Christian world. We sometimes think that we have the right to dress the way we choose regardless of how it may offend other people.
- A mission trip is not the time to try and transform another culture to be more like yours.
- It is the job of the missionary to conform to the host culture.

#### **PRINCIPLES OF DRESS CODE**

- Modesty – a scriptural principle of dress often overlooked at home as well as abroad.
- Cultural Sensitivity - We must set aside our dress and customs and adopt those of the country in which we are serving. It is not culturally sensitive to show off the wealth of our country by wearing fancy, expensive clothing.

#### **FEMALES**

- \* No suggestive clothing (i.e. tight or form fitting shirts blouses or dresses, short shorts, half-shirts, or anything that shows the tummy).
- \* A dress or skirt/slacks/blouse is a must for church (no sleeveless tops).
- \* Jeans may be worn during work projects.
- \* No excessive jewelry.
- \* Sweatshirt, jacket or hoody is recommended for the cool evenings.
- \* No low cut necklines on dresses or shirt.
- \* No strap-type shirt allowed.

#### **MALES**

- \* No excessively baggy clothing.
- \* Jeans may be worn to church (unless you will be preaching).
- \* Jeans may be worn during work projects and VBS's.
- \* Sweatshirt, jacket or hoody is recommended for the cool evenings.
- \* No tank top T-shirts are allowed.

Please understand that we don't ask these things to be legalistic or to deprive you of your individuality. It's just that particular appearances don't say the same thing in Mexico as they do in Canada. The people we are serving are looking at us from their culture and point of view. We must not damage our impact by allowing material things to get in the way.

**Thank you for understanding.**