

**SAMPLE LETTER** – Please personalize this letter before you send it out to your family and friends.

*“You will come to understand that no matter what the problems of the world are, love is the answer.” - anonymous*

April 18, 2008

Dear Friends and Family,

For 30 years, First Christian Church of Concord has been traveling to Tijuana, Mexico for a week to build homes for families in need. This trip takes monumental effort in terms of planning and logistics. The trip is often a “mountaintop” experience for those choosing to make the journey.

This year will be my \_<sup>th</sup> year participating in the Mexico Mission trip. It has been a privilege and honor to be a part of this trip. Each time I go, I experience such tremendous emotion throughout the week. Crossing the border into Mexico instantly punctuates for me how much wealth we who live in this country have, and so often take for granted. The families who receive the homes and the community members surrounding them always amaze me. In spite of extreme poverty, they seem to be able to find the blessings in a simple life that we too often overlook.

Last year, it cost nearly \$40,000 to fund the trip and all of the proceeds are raised through various fund-raising events held at First Christian Church, Concord or from contributions made directly by the youth and their families. The trip is not underwritten by the church budget. The money is used for food, transportation, supplies and building materials for the home as well as other necessities during the week. This year, those of us traveling to Mexico would like to increase the visibility of this important mission in the wider community.

Attached is a donation brochure. This brochure shows most of the trip expenses including the material cost for the homes. I ask that you prayerfully consider making a difference in the lives of the families and participants on this trip. All gifts will be used as faithfully as possible for the items you have selected, with excess going to additional costs not listed.

Thank you for your support in this wonderful journey.

God Bless,

***Your name***