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## Fact Sheet

### 2008 New Orleans Adult Mission Trip

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**Date:** March 29 – April 5, 2008. Our flights will probably leave on Saturday, March 29, 2008, and return on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Like last year, some in the group may go to New Orleans a day early for an extra day of tourism.

**What will we be doing:** Not yet known, but in all likelihood we will be doing some light reconstruction, i.e. hanging sheet rock, installing new insulation, maybe some framing, There is still the possibility of “mucking”.

**Will we be working all of the time:** No. An important part of the experience is touring the Gulf Coast. The last two years we have visited New Orleans on the first Sunday, and then sometime mid-week gone into Mississippi. This is important because it gives everyone the opportunity to witness the destruction first-hand, and more importantly provides the opportunity to talk with local residents. It is also important to spend money in the region to give their economy a boost. We will attend church on Sunday at the First Union Presbyterian Church.

**What will it cost:** This is not yet known, but the best guess is about \$450. The last two years we have asked for a \$400 deposit to be paid in January and because additional monies were received, no other payment was required. In those two years the group also received money from the Mission Committee, through an offering from the congregation, and a \$500 grant from Qwest Communications. Last year the four missionaries from Celebration Christian Church of Tacoma conducted a fund raiser and contributed over \$1,500. For next year’s trip, Qwest has already donated \$1,500. More information on funding will be available later in the year. The big costs are airfare, camp expenses (\$20 per day per person), and car/truck rental. Each person will also need money for souvenirs and meals eaten out. You will also need to provide work clothing, gloves, eye protection, work boots, and breathing masks.

**What is the camp like:** Actually it is very comfortable. Missionaries sleep in “pod tents” constructed from treated corrugated cardboard. There is electricity, heating, and cooling in each tent. Cots are provided. The camp has men’s and women’s showers; a washing machine and dryer; sinks; clean outhouses; a covered group gathering area used for meals, devotionals, singing, and debriefing; a camp fire pit; and a kitchen. The gathering area has several tables, chairs, games, lighting, snack food, and a television. Missionaries spend much of their evening time here or in their own pods (which sleep two). The camp, known as the FISH Camp, is sponsored by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The camp does require certain chores to be done every day, such as cooking, cleanup, garbage pickup, cleaning the showers and outhouses.

**What is the weather like:** It depends. The first year was quite warm and muggy with highs in the mid 80s most every day. This last year was warm the first part of

the week, but then cooled down the second half. We even had sleet on the Saturday we left New Orleans.

**What about the bugs and other creatures:** Well, there are lots of cockroaches. At first it can give you a slight scare, but you eventually realize there is nothing to them. We did see one rat this past year (none the first trip). The alligators are far away, and we have not seen any snakes. Many of us were bitten by mosquitoes in the evening this year (and we did hear and see frogs at night).

**What is the work like:** Many words are used to describe the work – arduous, hot, sweaty, difficult, emotional, fun, satisfying. One missionary said it was the hardest job you will ever love. We generally leave the FISH Camp around 8 am, begin work by 9 am, break for lunch around noon, and leave the home by 4 pm. Workers are encouraged to take many breaks and drink a lot of water. You cannot take too many breaks. You are encouraged to talk to neighbors (if there are any) and the home owner. The last two years of mucking the work was dirty, dusty, and sometimes could be loud. But we have never heard anyone complain. Most of the time you would see satisfied smiles on the faces of the missionaries. It can be hard work, but it is very, very satisfying.

**Anything else:** During the flights and when we are touring, you will be encouraged to wear team t-shirts or the shirts provided by the PDA. This has proven to be a wonderful tool to encourage local residents to approach us and talk. Our mission is two-fold – help New Orleans rebuild, and be a vehicle of hope. We need to be available to listen to their stories, provide encouragement, and offer hugs. New Orleans is holy ground and we are the feet and hands of Christ.

This information just provides the facts. There is absolutely no possible way for you to truly understand what it is like. No photographs. No video. No sound bite. You can hear our stories, see our pictures, or watch it on the news. You will not get it unless you spend some time in New Orleans as we have done. This next spring you will have that opportunity. Come join us. It will change your life.