

The following is an email sent from Fred Collom concerning Sugar Land Vineyard's Spring Break Trip to Mexico:

From: Fred Collom <fredcollom@yahoo.com>
Date: February 24, 2010 4:32:48 PM CST
To: Scott Hatch <scott@slvineyard.org>
Subject: Safety concerns Reynosa

1. The area we work in is on the eastern edge of Reynosa. It is a large colonia surrounded by fields. there is only one road leading to the colonia. We have never had any violence or drug activity that you hear about in other areas. The people who live there feel very safe in their colonial but some avoid going to Reynosa late at night out of the same concerns that you have.
2. Because it is a rural area it is very unlikely that we'll have any problems associated with the drug cartels. Most of their battles are with the army and to take on the army in open fields would be a disaster for them.
3. We enter Mexico at the Pharr bridge. It is a very long bridge, too far to cross on foot. There are no businesses on the Mexican side. It is rural as well. It is the type of area that narcs avoid. There's no where to hide and no one to blend in with to escape if they would try something.
4. Just about everyone in the colonia knows us and likes us. At Christmas 2 Vineyard churches came and visited every home in the colonia and gave new shoes to the kids.
The colonial president is part of our leadership team and the school principal is Secretary of Vineyard Ministries for the Reynosa area. The ex-president also works with us.
5. I go to the colonia just about every day and have never had any concerns about my safety. I do not feel as safe in other areas of Mexico. All of my kids have gone with me to the colonia and at times I have sent them in my place to help a team. I have never worried about them being in that area. I must admit last year I was very worried about them when they went to Houston for a concert but they are adults and I couldn't stop them.

Scott

I hope this is helpful. Let me know if you need anything else.

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