

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp has always been about providing a safe environment. We continue to set that as our number one priority. In the past couple of weeks, there have been articles about some unrest in Juarez, Mexico. Wanting to be proactive about the situation, we at Rainbow Trail feel it is necessary to assure you that we are gathering the most accurate information about the situation and dealing with it accordingly. With that said, I have personally been in contact with our Casas por Cristo reps. They are in and out of Juarez on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. They are some of the most useful tools in gathering information because they are constantly immersed in Juarez. Below is an official statement from Casas por Cristo.

Over the past 15 years, we have not had one incident of physical violence or threat of kidnapping. I will be honest and tell you that we have encountered incidences of theft. However, in almost all of these cases, it has been in a situation of neglect (not keeping an eye on belongings, leaving them inside a vehicle overnight, etc.). We believe that the Lord has placed a hedge of protection around our ministry and the work we are involved in. Furthermore, we believe in being careful and mindful while we are serving in Mexico. It is our position that a team member should never wander off by themselves. Also, we work in the Christian community in Mexico. The work of CpC is well respected and recognized. The people we come in contact with are appreciative and protective of the work that we do.

On a personal note, I have worked in Juarez for 8 years now, and have never felt unsafe or threatened, and this holds true even in the light of new information. Additionally, if we ever feel that the climate has become too volatile or unsafe, we would respond accordingly and temporarily halt operations.

I hope this helps you. Let us know what else we can do to help! We know that Satan hates the work we are doing in Mexico, and will do anything to thwart it. One way is to place doubt in the minds of those that are coming to serve. We know that God is protective, and with His guidance, and through commonsense, we will continue on with the mission at hand.

In Him,

*Amy Lowrey
Director of Programming/Scheduling
Casas por Cristo*

"To be certain of God means that we are uncertain in all our ways; we do not know what a day may bring forth. This is generally said with a sigh of sadness; it should rather be an expression of breathless expectation." Oswald Chambers

Team Coordinator

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In addition, I have spoken with Justin Williamson, an American Consulate rep in the US Embassy in Juarez, Mexico. His stance is that Americans are NOT to be warned against coming to Juarez, but to be cautious.

Juarez has a population near 2 Million people. It is not unlike any U.S. city of that population in that it has its areas of crime. The crime is localized and targeted against high government officials, NOT at U.S. citizens. The area we will be working in, Anapra, is not an area of increased threat. In fact, he says, the crime rate against Americans has *decreased* in the past two years.

Both Casas por Cristo and Rainbow Trail Lutheran camp are concerned for the safety and welfare of not only your youth, but of our Casas por Cristo interns, RTALC directors and counselors. If we feel at any point that the safety of our Bridging Borders trips is being compromised, we will make the necessary adjustments. We are partners with YOU in sharing the love of Jesus Christ. If we cannot provide a safe environment, all efforts on our end of reaching that goal will be defeated. We feel very strongly that where we will be working in Juarez is a safe place to be sending our groups this summer.

If you have any more concerns, we ask you to please contact one or any of the following:

In His grace,

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