

Dear Southwest Conference Youth,

I write to share with you my hope that you will be able to join us for Sneak Trip 2012.

If you have done this before, you know that we try to create meaningful experiences with other communities and cultures to try and broaden your life experiences. This year is no different.

I am very excited about it – we are staying in San Diego and taking a one day trip into Tijuana, MX. While there we will experience both the richness of the culture and the courage of a people making a way in difficult times. Our trip into Mexico will be in cooperation with Centro Romero, a United Church of Christ mission center based in San Diego that takes groups like ours south of the border almost every day (www.theromero.org).

I have taken this trip before. I promise you the experience will be an unforgettable one. You will meet courageous people. You will meet children suffering from poverty. You will meet young men and women like yourself who are working hard to make a difference in their community.



This is a picture of me praying at the wall on the south side of the border. This is from a trip I took last January with Centro Romero.

I know that some of you will be concerned about your overall safety. I can tell you that I have taken this trip and others like it many times. I have never felt unsafe, or had anything but kindness and love extended to me. I have walked the streets of Juarez, Alta r, Nogales, and Tijuana without incident or fear. Centro Romero does this almost every day; has done it

for years now without incident. Make sure you have your passport, and if you plan to come get started on that soon as it can take a number of weeks to fully process.

We will be staying at a church in San Diego, and will have the joy of participating in their Sunday morning worship before we head out to an amusement park for the afternoon. We hope to be able to spend some time with the youth from the church there, also.

I can't say enough about how excited I am; and hopeful that you will be able to join us. I consider it an honor to work with, play with, and worship with the youth and young adults of the Southwest Conference. Seeing you there would complete my joy.

With all love, hope, and sincerity,

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer
Southwest Conference Minister

P.S. Don't forget to follow us and keep track of updates on our Facebook page – 'Senior High Sneak Trip 2012'!