

Chwang Open Team

LOCATION: SAMZIURAM, NAGALAND, INDIA

PROJECT DATES: DEC. 23, 2014 – JAN. 4, 2015

PARTICIPATION FEE: \$945

OPTIONAL EXCURSION 1 KOLKATA (JANUARY 4-5): \$230

OPTIONAL EXCURSION 2: KOLKATA AND TAJ MAHAL

(JANUARY 4-7): \$530

Flights not included in participation fee



Information Packet

Maranatha has been working in India to build churches and schools for the Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1998. So far, more than 1,600 projects have been completed in the country.

India has a desperate need for new schools, as many children and young people have no access to education. Maranatha has been working steadily on constructing large Christian campuses in rural parts of India. Volunteers have built both One-Day School campuses and Education and Evangelism Centers, which consist of 6-10 classrooms and a large multi-purpose room. These structures provide Christian education to countless students each year. And through the children, many families have come to know of Christ's love.

Even after years of Maranatha working in India, there continues to be an immense need for churches and schools.

PROJECT DETAILS

About the Project

Volunteers on this project will travel to Samziuram, India, and work at the Chwang Seventh-day Adventist School. In the mid 1960's, three families traveled from their homeland in Manipur to Samziuram to become Adventist missionaries. Although they faced hardship and persecution, they persevered. As a result of lay evangelism, their congregation grew from three families to more than 300 members. In 1966, the congregation was given a plot of swampland by the local government to build a church, and the following year they opened the first Adventist Church in Samziuram. Soon after, the church saw a need for an Adventist school because many of the local schools operated on Saturday. The members' children, who were taught the importance of Sabbath by their parents, were forced to break the Sabbath to receive an education. In 1971, the church started a primary school with 20 students. Since then, the school has expanded to include a high school. Today, there are more than 280 students learning about God's love each day.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 23, 2014

Arrival in Dimapur (DMU); travel to Samziuram

Wednesday, December 24

Orientation

Thursday, December 25 – Friday,

December 26

Work days

Saturday, December 27

Worship with local congregation

Sunday, December 28, 2014 –

Friday, January 2, 2015

Work days

Saturday, January 3

Worship with local congregation

Sunday, January 4

Departure from Dimpur (DMU)

The church members have not had the funds to construct the school of their dreams. The facility originally was constructed with bamboo and wood. They now have brick buildings and metal roofs, but the walls have not been plastered, the floor is made of clay, and the rusted roof leaks with the rain. During the monsoon season, the classrooms fill with water, forcing teachers and students out.

Maranatha volunteers will be answering the members' prayers by building additional classroom facilities. This will not only provide improved learning spaces, it will also help the school to achieve a higher secondary school status with the government. When completed, the 12 One-Day School classrooms and multi-purpose building will provide space for more than 450 new students.

In addition to construction, volunteers will organize outreach activities in the community. Volunteers will hold medical and dental clinics, conduct interactive health programs for the local children, offer midwifery classes, teach locals knife sharpening skills, drill a new well for the campus, remodel the old classrooms, hold evangelistic meetings, and learn the local language of Rongmei.

Accommodations

This project will have very basic accommodations. Volunteers will be staying at the Chwang School in a large multi-purpose room that will have been constructed by a previous Maranatha team. A cot, three-inch mattress, bed sheets, blanket, and pillow will be provided. You are also welcome to bring your own air mattress, sleeping bags, or pillows. Temperatures could be cooler in the mountains, so please plan accordingly. Volunteers will need to bring their own towels and washcloths to use during the project. A kitchen will be set up in the existing school buildings, and local cooks will provide all meals for volunteers.

Excursions

During the project, volunteers will visit some of the villages and sights in the Nagaland province. After the project, volunteers are welcome to take an extended tour of Kolkata and Agra with Maranatha. Each of the optional excursions has an additional tour fee. You can join us for both of the optional excursions or just one. Information regarding flights for these excursions is included later in this packet.

Optional Excursion 1: Kolkata | Following the project, we will take a city tour of Kolkata. The tour will include a visit to the Mother Teresa of Calcutta Center. Mother Teresa remains a symbol of Godly love for the "untouchables" of India. She lived most of her life in India and in 1950 founded the Missionaries of Charity, which provides hospice and homes for the sick and poverty-stricken.

Optional Excursion 2: Kolkata and Taj Mahal | Continue on with the group excursion in Agra, located outside of Delhi. Here, volunteers will visit the Taj Mahal, a stunning marble mausoleum considered one of the world's architectural masterpieces. Mughal emperor Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal as a memorial to his wife. An estimated three million people visit the beautiful building each year. The group will also visit Agra's Red Fort, a walled imperial city that was home to generations of royalty.

DAILY SCHEDULE

A typical day will look like the following:

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Group Worship
8:00 a.m.	Head to work
12:00 Noon	Lunch
4:30 p.m.	Return from work
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Group worship

The key word for mission trips is FLEXIBILITY. The above schedule is our plan, but it may be adjusted due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

Optional Excursion 1

Sunday, January 4

Travel to Kolkata; half-day city tour

Monday, January 5

Mother Teresa's Home and Missionary of Charity Tour; evening departures from Kolkata (CCU)

Optional Excursion 2

Monday, January 5

Evening departure to Delhi

Tuesday, January 6

Travel to Agra to visit Red Fort

Wednesday, January 7

Sunrise Taj Mahal Tour; return to Delhi and departure Delhi (DEL) after 11pm

Leadership

Dick and Brenda Duerksen | Dick and Brenda Duerksen join the group from Carmichael, California. Dick is the host of Maranatha's television program, Maranatha Mission Stories, and Brenda works as the medical projects specialist, coordinating medical and dental clinics for volunteer groups. When not traveling around the world, Dick and Brenda enjoy photography, nature, and spending time with their children and grandchildren. Dick and Brenda will be coordinating activities on the project, and Brenda will coordinate the medical and dental teams that will serve the community.



Lorin Rubbert | Lorin and Luanne Rubbert will be joining the group from North Dakota where Lorin works as a construction superintendent in the oil industry. He has also worked as a farmer and pilot for more than 40 years and owns a farm in Saskatchewan. He likes spending time in his remote wilderness cabin in northern Saskatchewan where he enjoys photography, flying, and hanging out with family and friends. Lorin became involved with Maranatha through reading a copy of Maranatha's magazine, The Volunteer, and joined a project to Falakata, India where he and Luanne fell in love with the people of India. He recently stated that joining the Chwang Open Team feels like they are going home. Lorin will be leading the construction aspect of the project as the construction superintendent.



Vinish Wilson | Vinish has been working with Maranatha in India since 2001. His sunny personality, organization skills, and commitment to the mission of Maranatha has endeared him to many volunteers who have worked in India. Vinish will assist with in-country details and make sure everything flows smoothly behind-the-scenes. Vinish and his wife Rachel have two young children.



Expenses

The participation fee of \$945 covers housing for 12 nights, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, a local excursion, secondary accident insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags. Flights, passport fees and visas, vaccinations, and optional excursions are not included in your participation fee.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by December 2, 2014, due to application processing time. Please wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations, please have them sent directly to you or work with your local church treasurer to collect funds and issue tax-deductible receipts, since it is difficult for Maranatha to track individual small checks. If your church will not work with you, please wait until you have collected the full amount before submitting your participation fee to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

- **Flight to Dimapur:** \$2,000 - \$3,000
- **Passport:** \$130 or \$110 for renewal
- **Indian Visa (depending on visa length)**
 - U.S. citizens:** \$138-228
 - U.S. citizens expedited:** \$172-262
 - Canadian citizens:** \$218-376
 - Canadian citizens expedited:** \$258-416



ABOUT INDIA

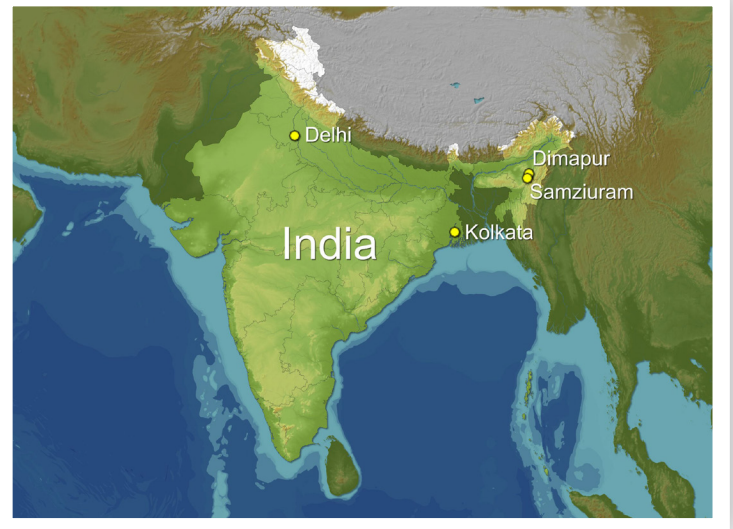
The diversity of India's culture and its rich history has made this country an intriguing place of contrasts. The beggar on the street wears a cheerfully vibrant sari. Hunger is widespread, but the air is thick with simmering spices. The country is crippled by illiteracy, but some of the world's brightest thinkers have emerged from India's cities and countryside. Blending modernity and antiquity, India is pushing forward to make social and economic progress while reconciling the future with its past. Yet these juxtaposed details are what make India a captivating country to visit and a fascinating place to work with Maranatha.

In its early history, India was the center of fiscal and cultural wealth as art and literature flourished and the trade of spices, ivory, and silk abounded. Hinduism became the dominant belief system, although Islam also wove its way into the region over the years. India's prosperity made it a desirable target, and the British began to colonize the region in the 1600s. Efforts to liberate India started 200 years later, but it wasn't until Mohandas Gandhi introduced a nonviolent approach did the Indians achieve independence from the British in 1947.

Today, India is the second most populous nation in the world with over 1.2 billion people. The impact of this huge population is rampant poverty, which has caused illiteracy, inadequate access to drinking water, and widespread illness. Potentially contributing to the overall poverty is a cultural remnant from India's past: the caste system.

Although discouraged by the government, this system of social stratification still dominates many rural communities. The caste system assigns class to individuals and offers no escape from this imposed category. For those subjugated to the lowest level of "untouchables," life is a constant flood of prejudice, discrimination, and abuse.

India remains a country of diversity and beauty. The architecture of the Taj Mahal, the dances and music of Bollywood, the colorful saris and festival of colors, and the spicy curries—India remains a country rich in culture and full of life.



FACTS & FIGURES

Capital: New Delhi

Population: 1.24 billion

Language: Hindi 41%, Bengali 8.1%, Telugu 7.2% and various other languages and dialects

Climate: Humid and monsoon in southern India. Temperate in the north.

Religion: Hindu 80.5%, Muslim 13.4%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%

Currency: Indian Rupee (approximately 60 Rupees to \$1 USD)



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to Dimapur, India (see below). Most connections will require a long layover in Delhi or Kolkata (Calcutta). Air India seems to have the best domestic connections to Dimapur; however we recommend that you book on one itinerary all the way to Dimapur to take advantage of the international baggage allowances. Individual domestic flights tend to have stricter limits for baggage weight and size. If your flight requires an overnight stay in Delhi, there is a transit hotel in the airport. Maranatha representatives will meet you in Dimapur, and the group will travel by bus to Samziuram, which is located a couple of hours from the airport.

Flights

Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project.

Arrival | Please plan to arrive in Dimapur (airport code DMU) in the afternoon of December 23, 2014.

Departures | Project Only: Travel home from Dimapur (DMU) in the afternoon of January 4, 2015.

Optional Excursion 1 (Kolkata):

Please book the following flights:

- Dimapur (DMU) to Kolkata (CCU), Air India 709
Sunday, January 4, 12:00 p.m.
- Travel home from Kolkata (CCU)
Monday, January 5, evening

Optional Excursion 2 (Kolkata AND Taj Mahal):

Please book the following flights:

- Dimapur (DMU) to Kolkata (CCU), Air India 709
Sunday, January 4, 12:00 p.m.
- Kolkata (CCU) to Delhi (DEL), Air India 23
Monday, January 5, 8:15pm
- Travel home from Delhi (DEL)
Wednesday, January 7, after 11 p.m. (red-eye flight)



Resources

Azumano Travel: 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle at edpenha@azumano.com

Butler Travel: 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at nathan@butlertravel.com

Kayak: www.kayak.com

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, mention Maranatha for the best fares.

Entry Requirements

All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (July 4, 2015). If you do not have a passport, U.S. citizens can apply at any U.S. post office or online at <http://travel.state.gov>. Canadian citizens can apply online at www.passport.gc.ca. It can take up to two months to complete the entire process, so plan accordingly to give yourself enough time to receive your passport.

In addition to a passport, travelers must also have a valid visa for the country of India before traveling. The Indian government requires that you apply with the consulate or embassy in your regional jurisdiction. You can either apply in person or by using an online visa service. You will only need a six-month visa; however, if you plan to visit India again in the future, you may consider applying for the five or ten year visa. A document explaining the application process, complete visa requirements, and tips for filling everything out will be sent to you with your confirmation.

Citizens of other countries, please consult the Indian embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.

STAYING HEALTHY

Maranatha requires that every volunteer have a current tetanus vaccination (within the last 10 years). The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommend vaccinations for hepatitis A and typhoid and an antimalarial medication other than Choloroquine.

Because Maranatha is not a medical organization, we recommend that you schedule a consultation with a travel clinic doctor to discuss the potential health risks in traveling to India and the ways to minimize them.

HOW TO REGISTER

To register, please complete the online registration and pay the full participation fee or an initial deposit of at least half the total participation fee. You can make this payment online by credit card, over the phone, or with a check made out to Maranatha Volunteers International and sent to the address below. If for any reason you need to cancel your participation, Maranatha will do our best to refund your deposit up until one month before travel. After that point, \$150 is non-refundable, and the remainder will depend on the reservations and the project arrangements already made.

Register online at maranatha.org or over the phone.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: (916) 774-7700

Fax: (916) 774-7701

Email: volunteer@maranatha.org

Website: www.maranatha.org

Mailing Address:

Maranatha Volunteers International
990 Reserve Drive
Suite 100
Roseville, CA 95678

Canadian Payments Only:

Maranatha Volunteers
International Association
c/o V06494C
PO Box 6494, Station Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3

THE MARANATHA

STORE

BUY MARANATHA MERCHANDISE!

Share the spirit of service with Maranatha-themed apparel and accessories.

NIKE CLASSIC POLO \$45



This classic golf polo has stitch-trimmed shoulder panels, flat knit collar, three-button placket and open hem sleeves—with Dri-FIT fabric technology to keep you dry on those hot days.

HARD HAT \$11



This MSA V-Gard hard hat, with Staz-On suspension, ensures excellent shock absorption on the job site.



TO ORDER, CALL (916) 774-7700

All prices are excluding sales tax and shipping.

CAP \$12



All cotton and easy to pack, this cap is sure to keep the sun off your face on a mission project and at home.

WATER BOTTLE \$15



The autospout water bottle by Contigo features a one-touch-button spout for convenient one-handed drinking. It also has a spout shield to protect the spout from debris and dirt when not in use—perfect for the project site.

MARANATHA.ORG

MARANATHA
VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL

