

# MANIPUR INDIA OPEN TEAM

**LOCATION:** MANIPUR, INDIA

**PROJECT DATES:** FEBRUARY 18 - MARCH 1, 2015

**OPTIONAL EXCURSION DATES:** MARCH 1-4, 2015

**PARTICIPATION FEE:** \$1,600

**OPTIONAL EXCURSION:** \$650

*Flight to Imphal, India is not included in the participation fee*



## Information Packet

*This packet is updated as of October, 2014 to reflect new accommodation and excursion details.*

## MARANATHA IN INDIA

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 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 six to ten 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.

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

## PROJECT DETAILS

The Manipur Boarding School is one of the secondary schools built to help meet India's education needs. It was established in 1968 in the town of Moirang, about 45 kilometers from the state capital of Imphal. When the school first opened, it was built with bamboo, bricks and rocks, and thatched roofs. There were 60 children enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade, and due to the superior education, enrollment soared to more than 1,000 students in 1990.



However, throughout the 1990's, the school faced difficulty due to communal riots between the Naga and the Kuki tribes.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, February 18

Arrival in Imphal (IMF) and check in to hotel

### Thursday, February 19 – Friday, February 20

Orientation and first work days

### Saturday, February 21

Worship with the local congregation

### Sunday, February 22 – Friday, February 27

Work days

### Saturday, February 28

Worship with the local congregation

### Sunday, March 1

Departures from Imphal or continue on the optional excursion. Excursion: Fly to Guwahati, Drive to Kaziranga, and check in at hotel

### Monday, March 2

Excursion: Kaziranga National Park safari

### Tuesday, March 3

Excursion: Morning elephant ride safari and travel to Guwahati for local sight seeing and shopping

### Wednesday, March 4

Departure from Guwahati (GAU)

Parents feared sending their children away to school, and many teaching staff were forced to leave. The unrest in the region caused enrollment to fall to less than 100 students. But even while the school was on the verge of closing, God remained in control, and today, the school is active with over 400 students who are busy learning about their world and sharing their faith with those around them. Each year the school holds a week of prayer and evangelistic meetings in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Maranatha recently built an Education and Evangelism Center in Manipur to replace an old building on campus. But more work is needed. Volunteers on this project will construct 12 additional One-Day School classrooms that will be modified to serve as dormitories for the boarding students. The school classrooms will be completed with brick walls. In addition to construction, volunteers will also have the opportunity to participate in village visitation and children's ministry programs throughout the community.

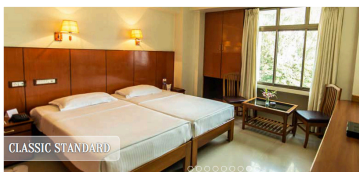


### **Accommodations - Updated**

Volunteers will stay at The Classic Hotel, a beautiful facility near the ruins of the famous Kangla Fort in the city of Imphal. From there, volunteers will have a 40-minute commute to the worksite. Each hotel room has hot water and private bathrooms. Air-conditioning is available in all rooms. WiFi and laundry service are also available. All linens are provided; however, washcloths are not often included, so please bring your own.

For more information about The Classic Hotel visit [www.theclassichotel.in](http://www.theclassichotel.in)

The Classic Hotel  
North AOC, Imphal-795001 Manipur, India



### **Optional Excursion - Updated**

At the end of the project volunteers can choose to extend their stay in India by joining an optional excursion to Kaziranga National Park and the City of Guwahati. This four-day excursion has an additional fee that includes a flight to Guwahati, ground transportation to and from Kaziranga National Park, two safari rides, an elephant ride, and a tour of Guwahati.

**Kaziranga National Park** | This park is located on the borders of the Brahmaputra River in northern India, and it is home to the world's largest population of Great One-horned Rhinoceroses. Other animals in the park include water buffalo, elephants, Indian tigers, leopards, sloth bears, sambar deer, hoolock gibbons, Assam macaques, and the endangered Ganges river dolphin. Volunteers will have a morning and evening jeep safari to the eastern and western regions of the park. They will also have an early morning elephant ride.



**Guwahati** | After Kaziranga, volunteers will continue on to Guwahati, the capital of the Indian state of Assam. There, you will take in local sights including a silk emporium and a bazaar with shopping opportunities. Later that day, you will visit the Kalakshetra, a cultural institution with a museum, library, open-air theaters, and places of worship. The following morning, volunteers will depart from the Guwahati airport.

### **Expenses**

The participation fee covers housing for 11 nights, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, secondary accident insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by January 12, 2015, due to application processing time. 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 of your participation fee before submitting it to Maranatha.

### ESTIMATE OF ADDITIONAL COSTS

**Flight to Imphal:** \$1,500 – 2,300  
**Passport:** \$130 or \$110 for renewal  
**Visa:** (6-month visa, non rush)  
U.S. citizens: \$96  
Canadian citizens: \$178

### Leadership

#### David Lopez | Project Coordinator

David joins the group from Rocklin, California, with his wife Alisa and their two boys, Crosby and Carter. David became involved with Maranatha through the Ultimate Workout, Maranatha's teen project, when he was only fifteen years old. Now, he is the director of volunteer projects and helps to coordinate more than 60 volunteer groups annually. He and his family enjoy traveling together; most recently they have traveled to Ecuador, Zimbabwe, and Ghana. When not traveling the world, the Lopez family enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with family and friends. David will oversee all aspects of this trip as project coordinator.



David Lopez

#### Terry Schwartz | Construction Superintendent

Terry joins the group from Lincoln, Nebraska, where he lives with his wife Dina. Most recently they have served with Maranatha in India, Curacao, Ecuador, Ghana, and Brazil. He has led mission trips all over the world and recently served as project coordinator on the Zimbabwe Open Team. Terry has authored the book "Never Alone" where he shares more about the impact Maranatha has had on his life while dealing with cancer. He gathers strength for every day from participating on Maranatha mission trips. When they aren't traveling, Terry and Dina enjoy photography and outdoor activities.



Terry & Dina Schwartz

#### Mark Herscher | Spiritual Coordinator

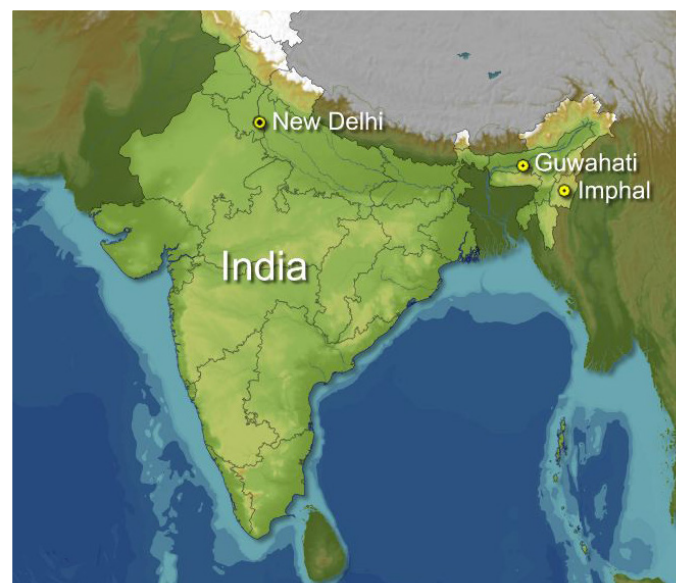
Mark has enjoyed volunteering with Maranatha for over 30 years and has traveled to India, Cuba, and Zimbabwe on various projects. He and his wife Cheryl reside in Oregon where Mark works as a Family Practice Physician and Medical Director for a local nursing and rehab center. Mark will be joining the Manipur Open Team as the spiritual coordinator and is looking forward to getting his hands dirty, enjoying some fresh air and a change of pace, and telling others about Jesus.



Mark & Cheryl Herscher

### 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.

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to and from the city of Imphal, India, unless they will be joining the optional excursion, in which case they will depart out of Guwahati, India (see below). Maranatha representatives will meet volunteers upon arrival in Imphal on February 18. Most flights will require a connection in Delhi. If you plan to transfer to a domestic airline, we recommend trying to book all the way to Imphal on one itinerary to take advantage of the international baggage allowances. The Delhi airport has a transit hotel where you can conveniently book a room if you have an overnight stay. Once you arrive, volunteers will travel together to the project hotel. Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare.

### Arrival

Please plan to arrive in Imphal (airport code IMF) on Wednesday, February 18.

### Departure: Project Only

Please plan to depart from Imphal (IMF) on Sunday, March 1.

### Departure: Optional Excursion

Please plan to depart from Guwahati (GAU) in the morning of Wednesday, March 4.

India has some beautiful travel destinations. Some of you might arrive earlier than February 18 or stay beyond March 4 to explore the country on your own. Please make your own hotel and transportation plans for any days outside of the Maranatha project dates. If you have any questions, feel free to call Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

## Travel Resources

**Azumano Travel:** 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle at [edpenha@azumano.com](mailto:edpenha@azumano.com)

**Butler Travel:** 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at [nathan@butlertravel.com](mailto:nathan@butlertravel.com) or with Ellen at [ellen@butlertravel.com](mailto:ellen@butlertravel.com)

**Kayak:** [www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com)

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

## FACTS AND 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)



## Entry and Exit Requirements

All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (May 19, 2015). If you do not have a passport, U.S. citizens can apply at any U.S. post office or online at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov). Canadian citizens can apply online at [www.passport.gc.ca](http://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 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 apply in person or use 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.

## MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS & PRECAUTIONS

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

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 for 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 by credit card online, 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 their 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](http://Maranatha.org) or over the phone.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Phone:** (916) 774-7700

**Fax:** (916) 774-7701

**Email:** [volunteer@maranatha.org](mailto:volunteer@maranatha.org)

**Website:** [www.maranatha.org](http://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

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

**MARANATHA.ORG**



**TO ORDER, CALL (916) 774-7700**

All prices are excluding sales tax and shipping.

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VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL