

Panama Painting Open Team

LOCATION: DAVID, PANAMA

PROJECT DATES: OCTOBER 15-27, 2014

PARTICIPATION FEE: \$975

Flight to Panama City is not included in the participation fee



Information Packet

MARANATHA IN PANAMA

Maranatha's first major initiative in Panama was nearly twenty years ago. Starting in the mid-1990s, Maranatha constructed 31 new churches, refurbished 16 churches, and built five Education and Evangelism Centers. Since then, those schools and churches have helped Seventh-day Adventist membership to grow. In 2013, Maranatha responded to Panama's request for additional churches and schools in hopes that the projects will have the same, positive impact.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Maranatha groups have been working tirelessly in the province of Chiriqui in western Panama. Each team has built a church for a congregation in desperate need of a new structure. Many congregations had been meeting in homes or had outgrown their previous spaces. Now the congregations are meeting in beautiful block churches constructed by Maranatha volunteers. However, they are not completely finished. In recent months, Maranatha crewmembers have stuccoed the block walls, and now the churches are ready for paint!

Volunteers on the Panama Painting Open Team will paint six completed Maranatha church buildings. Below is a list of the congregation names and the Maranatha team that completed the block work for the church.

Calle Octava – Completed by Panama Open Team

Los Abanicos – Enumclaw Adventist Church

Bongo Arriba – Christmas Family Project 2013

Quiteno – Fox Valley Adventist Church

Santa Marta de Boqueron – Chehalis Adventist Church Team

San Jose de las Lomas – Wisconsin Academy

In addition to the painting projects, there will also be opportunities for volunteers to participate in various forms of community outreach such as children's ministry, door-to-door outreach, and health education. If you have an interest in leading one of these areas, please contact Maranatha and join the Panama Painting Open Team.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 15
Arrival in Panama City (PTY)

Thursday, October 16
Travel to David

Friday, October 17
Work day

Saturday, October 18
Worship with the local congregations

Sunday, October 19 – Friday, October 24
Work days with midweek excursion

Saturday, October 25
Worship with the local congregations

Sunday, October 26
Travel to Panama City and visit Panama Canal

Monday, October 27
Departure from Panama City (PTY)

Accommodations

Volunteers will be staying at the Cabañas Boquete Forever located near Boquete, Panama. The cabins are approximately 60 to 90-minute drive from the various painting sites. Each cozy cabin accommodates four to seven people in double and single beds. The ground floor of the cabin has a small kitchen and dining room. Meals will be prepared in the cabin kitchens, and the group will also eat at local restaurants during the project. Bedding and towels are provided, but washcloths are not. Each cabin has hot water and electricity with three-prong North American style plugs. The facility also has WiFi, although it is not very fast. The cabins are located up in the mountains, so expect a little cooler weather at night.



Excursions

Boquete | Boquete is a small town along the Caldera. It is located about 4,000 feet above sea level, making the area much cooler than the lowlands of central Panama. Boquete is surrounded by beautiful rain forest and lush scenery, and according to Lonely Planet, it is "one of the country's top destinations for outdoor lovers." Hikers enjoy trekking on the Sendero de los Quetzales, a trail passing through the forest to the nearby Barú volcano. Volunteers on the Panama Open Team will have a day to explore shops in town as well as explore trails and waterways. There will also be the option to go horseback riding, zip lining, or rafting; however, the fee for some of the activities may exceed the amount budgeted for our excursions. If you plan to participate in many excursion activities, please be prepared to cover the additional cost.

Panama Canal | Volunteers will have the unique experience of seeing Panamanian and American history when they visit the Panama Canal, which cuts across the Isthmus of Panama. Work on the canal was finished in 1914, and it enabled sailors carrying trading goods to make a more direct route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific, instead of traversing the dangerous waters of Cape Horn. Ownership of the canal passed from the Colombian government to the French and eventually the American government, until it finally was returned to Panama in 1999. The Panama Canal is considered one of the seven wonders of the modern world.

Leadership

Sadie and Ted Torrez | Sadie and Ted join the team from Loveland, Colorado. In 1998, Sadie started volunteering on Maranatha projects as a translator. Since then, she and her husband have been a part of approximately 40 different projects to countries including Costa Rica, Jamaica, Portugal, Norway, Ecuador, and North America. When not on Maranatha projects, Sadie enjoys quilting and volunteering at the local school, and Ted volunteers with Habitat for Humanity. They both enjoy hiking through the Colorado Mountains. Sadie will lead the Panama Painting Open Team as the project coordinator and Ted will direct the various church painting crews.

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 September 29, 2014, 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 either 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 your participation fee to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

Flight to Panama City: \$525-750

Passport: \$130 or \$110 for renewal

ABOUT PANAMA

Panama is approximately the size of Mississippi, and this long, narrow country marks the border between North and South America. Early inhabitants of Panama tended to reside on both sides of the country near oceans, swamps, and rivers. It is no wonder that the country was named Panama, meaning "Abundance of Fish." As an illustration of its moniker, Panama is full of fish markets.

Panama is perhaps best known for its canal, a thoroughway connecting the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific. Constructed by the United States after a failed attempt by the French, the canal opened on August 15, 1914. It was a historical moment for the world and the United States, as the country's sovereignty over the "Canal Zone" marked America's rise as a superpower. Nearly a century later, the canal is now under the control of Panama's government, and it remains an important link in world trade. It has seen the passage of more than 800,000 vessels in its time.

Aside from the canal, Panama is a fast-growing country with 3.2 million people. Great progress has been made in education, as access has been broadened to reach rural areas, and the literacy rate is 93%. Interestingly, female enrollment at secondary schools is dominant, and in 1999, Panama elected its first female president. Unfortunately, Panama still struggles with socioeconomic disparities. Poverty is great, particularly among the indigenous people. While the government has implemented social programs, the problem is still widespread.

Weather in Panama is fairly tropical. Temperatures average in the 70's and 80's year round. The rainy season lasts from May to January, and in June, visitors can expect anywhere from 10-20 inches of rain. This weather provides an excellent environment for tropical animals. Panama boasts a vast biodiversity with 218 different mammal species and the largest number of avian species in Central America, including large populations of macaws, quetzals, parrots, and toucans.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the capital of Panama City (see below). Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. The first night will be spent at the Riande Aeropuerto Hotel in Panama City. The following day, the group will travel by tourist bus to the project location. For more information or to see the address of the hotel, visit www.riandehoteles.com/contactenos.

Arrival

Please plan to arrive in Panama City (airport code PTY) on Wednesday, October 15.

Departure

Please plan to depart from Panama City (PTY) on the morning of Monday, October 27.



FACTS & FIGURES

Capital: Panama City

Population: 3,510,045

Language: Spanish and some English

Climate: Tropical, hot and humid. Long rainy season from May to January

Religion: Roman Catholic 85%, Protestant 15%

Currency: U.S. Dollar

Travel 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 or with Ellen at with ellen@butlertravel.com.

Kayak: www.kayak.com

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

Entry Requirements

All U.S. and Canadian citizens must present a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond the date of your scheduled return from Panama (April 27, 2015). Tourists are permitted to travel in Panama for up to 180 days without a visa.

If you do not have a passport, please start the application process right away. U.S. citizens can go online and start paperwork at www.travel.state.gov/passport. If time is short, you can expedite the process for an additional fee. Photos can be taken at a FedEx office, Walgreens, or Costco.

Citizens of countries other than the U.S. or Canada, please consult the Panamanian embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.

STAYING HEALTHY

Maranatha requires that every volunteer have a current tetanus vaccine (within the last 10 years). The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends vaccines such as hepatitis A and B, typhoid, and an anti-malarial medication other than Chloroquine.

Because Maranatha is not a medical organization, we recommend that you schedule a consultation with a travel clinic doctor prior to your departure to discuss the medical risks in Panama and how 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 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

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HARD HAT \$11



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

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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.