



Zimbabwe Open Team

Information Packet

Location: Nyanga, Zimbabwe

Project Dates: March 1-12, 2017

Optional Excursion: March 12-14, 2017

Participation Fee: \$1,580

Excursion Fee: \$ 365

Airfare not included in the participation fee



Maranatha in Zimbabwe

Maranatha started working in Zimbabwe at the start of 2012. Since then, Maranatha has constructed two Education and Evangelism Centers (EEC) in Bulawayo and Harare as well as numerous One-Day Churches and School campuses throughout the country.

Project Overview

Christian education is very important to Seventh-day Adventists in Zimbabwe. Parents want to educate their children in an Adventist school for three primary reasons: Christian morality is taught everyday, the teachers don't go on strike, and the schools meet national and international accreditation. This provides a wonderful means of evangelism for the Adventist church. Through school, the church is able to reach hundreds of children and their parents, each and every day.

The Munga River Adventist Secondary School, located in the Nyanga region of eastern Zimbabwe, started offering classes in 2014 to relieve the students from having to walk more than 5 miles to the nearest secondary school. The school currently has 137 students who meet in two classrooms that have been divided in half with plywood to create four small learning spaces. The walls of the classrooms have no plaster, the floor is dirt, and the space is not adequate to accommodate the growing number of students. The school property is large and could accommodate up to 500 students if larger facilities existed. Volunteers on this project will construct 12 One-Day School buildings, which will serve as classrooms, administration offices, a multipurpose room, and bathrooms. There will also be opportunities for outreach in the local communities surrounding the school.

Project Schedule

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Arrival in Harare. Travel to Nyanga.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

Orientation and first work day

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

Work day

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

Worship with the local congregation

SUNDAY, MAR. 5 – FRIDAY, MAR. 10

Work days with midweek local excursion

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Worship with the local congregation.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

**Early morning travel to Harare.
Departures home or to excursion.**

Optional Excursion

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

**Take flight to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.
Explore Victoria Falls.**

MONDAY, MARCH 13

Safari in Chobe National Park

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

**Morning free time in Victoria Falls.
Afternoon departures home.**

Accommodations

Volunteers will stay at the beautiful Troutbeck Resort in the Nyanga mountains of Zimbabwe. It is on a property with a beautiful natural setting with plenty of open spaces and a golf course. The hotel is located approximately 45 minutes from the school construction site and approximately three and a half hours from the Harare airport. The group will travel each day, to and from the work site, in a private bus.

Each room is nicely furnished with double or twin beds. Bedding and towels are provided, but you might want to bring your own washcloth, as they are not typically provided in Zimbabwe. Some volunteers will also be accommodated in larger guesthouses that have space for eight volunteers. Air conditioning and hot water are available in each room. Electricity can sometimes be limited and go out unexpectedly for several hours at a time.



Volunteers should plan on staying in double occupancy rooms with a roommate. If you would like to room with someone in particular, feel free to let us know. And if you are interested in a single occupancy room at an additional cost (\$350 per person) please email volunteer@maranatha.org or call (916) 774-7700.



Meals and worships will take place in a meeting room at the hotel. Wi-Fi is available in some spots on campus, but do not expect a very fast connection.

For more information about the Troutbeck Resort visit www.legacyhotels.co.za/en/hotels/troutbeck.

Optional Excursion, Victoria Falls - \$365

After the project, volunteers can join the optional excursion to Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park for an additional excursion fee of \$365. The excursion fee will cover two nights at a luxury hotel, food, a one day safari, a tour of Victoria Falls, ground transportation, insurance, and all entrance fees during the excursion days. Volunteers will also be responsible for booking their own flight from Harare to Victoria Falls on March 12. This flight is not included in the participation fee. Details on the specific flight to book are listed in the Travel Information section of this packet.

One of the seven Wonders of the World, Victoria Falls is truly a magnificent sight. Upon arrival in Victoria Falls, you will hear the thundering of the water and see the mist that rises more than 1,600 feet into the air. The falls are more than a mile wide, and nearly 150 million gallons of water cascade down the drop off each minute during the peak of the Zambezi River's high water flow. That afternoon volunteers will get a chance to see the falls up close and personally.



The following day, volunteers will drive to Botswana to visit Chobe National Park, a nature reserve that has one of the largest concentrations of game in Africa. Volunteers will get a chance to see all kinds of animals including elephants, hippos, zebras, lions, cheetahs, and much more.



On Tuesday the 14th, volunteers will have a relaxing morning in Victoria Falls where they can feel free to explore the town, return to view the falls again, or take a microlight flight over the falls at an additional charge.

During the excursion, volunteers will stay at the Victoria Falls Rainbow Hotel. Volunteers should plan on staying in double occupancy rooms with a roommate. If you are interested in a single occupancy room at an additional cost of (\$120 per person) please email volunteer@maranatha.org or call (916) 774-7700. For photos and more information visit http://www.victoria-falls-hotels.net/victoria-falls-rainbow-hotel_Zimbabwe.php

Expenses

The participation fee covers housing, 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. Round trip airfare, entrance visas, passport costs, and vaccines are not included in the participation fee.

An optional excursion, after the project, is available at an additional cost of \$365 (see above for excursion details).

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by January 30, 2017, due to application processing time. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

Maranatha participation fees are tax-deductible. For Canadian tax-deductible receipts, payments must be made by check to the Maranatha Association (address located at the end of this information packet). For US tax-deductible receipts, payments can be made by cash, check, or credit/debit cards.

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

- **Airfare:** \$1000-1300
- **Passport:** \$130 or \$110 for renewal
- **Visa:** \$30-75 (upon arrival in Harare)
- **Excursion Flight:** \$100

Leadership

Loretta Spivey, Project Coordinator | Loretta has worked with with Maranatha since 2003. Throughout the years she has served as an Insight magazine reporter, as well as an outreach coordinator, spiritual coordinator, and project coordinator on several Maranatha projects, including the Ultimate Workout, Multiple Group Project, and several Open Team projects. In each role, she has focused on connecting participants with Christ. Although the Pittsburg Steelers still hold her allegiance, her family now calls Kernersville, North Carolina, home. She and her husband have five amazing children; most of them have participated in mission trips. She looks forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit will work on this project.



Peter Thomas, Construction Superintendent | Peter joins the group from Fort Worth, Texas, where he works as a homebuilder and land developer. However, his history with the African continent is extensive. He was born in Kenya and lived in Zimbabwe during the 1960s, and he is looking forward to returning to Zimbabwe. Peter became involved with Maranatha through his good friends Terry and Bruce Schwartz and has since joined several Maranatha projects around the world.



About Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe, meaning “large houses of stone” in the Karanga dialect of Shona, most likely received its name from the impressive Shona civilizations of the 13th century. Ruins of these cities remain at Great Zimbabwe and Masvingo where the unique “dry stone” architecture is still visible. However, starting in the 17th century, Zimbabwe began to see the impact of European expansion as it was eventually colonized by Cecil Rhodes’ British South Africa Company. Civil wars erupted as European groups fought for control of the extensive mines of precious metals. In April 1980, Zimbabwe’s independence was recognized by the United Kingdom.



This landlocked country is situated just above South Africa and below Zambia, and the geography holds beauty beyond compare. The world famous Victoria Falls thunders in the northwest part of the Zambezi River, on the border of Zambia. The unique mix of savanna and mountains enables more than 350 species of mammals to call Zimbabwe home. Zimbabwe has eight different national parks, the largest being Hwange National Park, where hyenas, lions, and elephants can be seen year round. Traditional arts include pottery, basketry, and jewelry making. Shona sculpture, figurines carved out of beautiful rocks such as soapstone, serpentine, or verdite, is also popular.

Facts and Figures

Capital:
Harare

Population:
14.2 million (July 2015)

Language:
English, Shona, Ndebele, and numerous but minor tribal dialects

Climate:
Tropical with rainy season
November to March

Religion:
Protestant 76%, Catholic 8%

Currency:
US Dollar

Travel Information

Flights

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the city of Harare (see below). Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Volunteers will travel together by bus to the project location. Once you have been confirmed and booked your itinerary, please email it to volunteer@maranatha.org.

Arrival | Please plan to arrive in Harare (airport code HRE) in the afternoon of Wednesday, March 1. Please arrive before 5:30 pm.

Departure (Project Only)| Please plan to depart from Harare (HRE) in the afternoon of Sunday, March 12. Please book tickets departing after 9:30 a.m. Volunteers will be returning to Harare very early on Sunday and all volunteers will be dropped off at the airport.

Departure (Optional Excursion)| If you are joining the optional excursion, please book the following flights:

1. Book Zimbabwe Air, flight number UM 324, from Harare to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (VFA), departing at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 12. Please book through a travel agent or online at <http://www.airzimbabwe.aero>
2. Book your departure home from Victoria Falls (VFA) in the early afternoon of Tuesday, March 14.

Arriving Early or Staying Late

Southern Africa has some beautiful travel destinations. Some of you may choose to arrive early or stay beyond the project to explore the country on your own. Please make your own hotel and transportation plans for any days outside the Maranatha project and excursion dates.

Travel Resources

- **Azumano Travel:** 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle at edpenha@ciazumano.com
- **Butler Travel:** 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at nathan@butlertravel.com or with Ellen at ellen@butlertravel.com.
- **Kayak:** www.kayak.com

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, make sure you mention Maranatha to receive a discounted service charge.

Entry Requirements

All passports must be valid for at least six months beyond the dates of intended travel (For this trip, your passport must not expire before September 15, 2017.). Your passport should have at least two blank visa pages for each entry. 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 tourist visa for the country of Zimbabwe. This visa can be purchased upon arrival in Harare. U.S. citizens can purchase a 30-day, single-entry visa for \$30 USD or a 60-day, multiple-entry visa for \$60 USD. Canadians can purchase a Single Entry visa for \$75 USD. This fee must be paid in cash in U.S. dollars. Volunteers joining the optional excursion should purchase a dual or multiple-entry visa upon entrance to save time when re-entering Zimbabwe from Botswana. Those not joining the excursion should be fine with just the single-entry.

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

Health & Safety

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 for hepatitis A, typhoid, and a malaria preventative medication other than Chloroquine.

You may have already received some of these vaccines, and you may deem some of them unnecessary for this trip. You should schedule a consultation with a travel clinic doctor to talk about the medical risks in Zimbabwe 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 or 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 www.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

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



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.

HARD HAT \$11



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

**TO ORDER, VISIT [MARANATHA.ORG/STORE](https://www.maranatha.org/store)
OR CALL (916) 774-7700**

All prices are excluding sales tax and shipping.