



Guyana Project

Information Packet

Location: Georgetown, Guyana

Project Dates: October 12-23, 2017

Participation Fee: \$1,200

\$1,050 for children 12 and under

(Age determined on the start date of the project)

Flight to Georgetown is not included in the participation fee



Maranatha in Guyana

In 2017, the Seventh-day Adventist Church will commemorate 130 years of activity in Guyana. Their work over the years has resulted in more than 62,000 members and approximately 200 congregations meeting each Sabbath. Church leadership has requested help from Maranatha to build churches and schools in the country.

At one time, the Adventist Church operated several schools in Guyana, but in 1976, ten years after the country gained its independence from Great Britain, the new government eliminated all private schools; all Adventist schools were closed as well. In the 1990's the government eased that position and opened the door for private schools once again. However, the Adventist Church has not yet re-started any schools in the country. Seeking to change this, church leadership has made a commitment to start a new primary school (grades 1st-6th) in the capital city of Georgetown.

The current scope of Maranatha's involvement will begin with the school campus (estimated completion Sept 2017) and a few church buildings.

Project Overview

Volunteers on this project will help construct two churches for the No. 5 and Mahaica congregations. The group will pour the floors and foundations for the buildings as well as assemble the One-Day Church frames and roof. Pouring the foundation is hard work but vital to the strength of the building. It will involve digging trenches, tying rebar cages, mixing concrete, and leveling the floor. Once the floor has set, volunteers will use drills and screws to assemble the metal structure and secure the roof. The local church members will finish the walls with local materials, but they will have a strong foundation and frame that will weather any storm.

Project Schedule

Thursday, October 12
Arrive in Georgetown, Guyana

Friday, October 13
Orientation and First Work Day

Saturday, October 14
Worship with the local congregation

Sunday-Tuesday, October 15-17
Work days

Wednesday, October 18
Excursion on the Essequibo River

Thursday – Friday, October 19-20
Work days

Saturday, October 21
Worship with the local congregation

Sunday, October 22
Excursion to Kaieteur and Orinduik Falls

Monday, October 23
Departure from Georgetown, Guyana

The No. 5 congregation started in 2013 with just 19 people. The small group began meeting in an abandoned disco dance hall but quickly realized that the building was too old and needed to be demolished. The group found themselves without a place of worship. For the year, they joined another Adventist church, located further outside their neighborhood. However, several members stopped going to church because of the distance they had to travel for worship. Currently, the group meets in a member's house. The conditions are difficult, but they are anxiously awaiting the Maranatha team and the new church that will fulfill the purpose of their presence in the community.

The Mahaica congregation started in 1943 in a factory building. In 1948 they baptized the first 12 members, and they began to grow their numbers through outreach, including health and women's ministry seminars and retreats. For the last several years they have been meeting in a building that is falling apart. The structure has deteriorated due to rot and termites. Members try to keep up with the repairs, but as soon as they fix one area, another section falls apart. They came to the conclusion that the entire church needed to be torn down, so they demolished the building with faith that God would provide a new building. They salvaged what parts they could and constructed a makeshift building on the corner of the property where they could meet until Maranatha builds them a new church!

In addition to construction, there are several community service options available, including children's ministry and health education. If you are interested in leading in either of these areas, please contact Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

Accommodations

Our group will stay at the Windjammer Hotel in Georgetown. The hotel ranges between a 2 and 3 star hotel, depending on how you rate hotels. The hotel is clean and nicely furnished with either double or matrimonial beds. The hotel provides bedding and towels, private bathroom, hot water, and air conditioning. Some rooms also have a small refrigerator. Wi-Fi is available, but it can be slower than you might be accustomed to. The hotel also has a nice swimming pool that can be enjoyed in the evening.

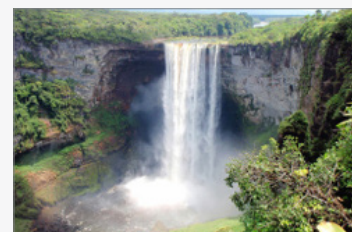
The hotel will also provide meals in the dining room. Each day the group will commute by private bus to the project locations.

Volunteers should plan on staying in double occupancy rooms with a roommate. If you would like to stay with someone in particular, please let us know at the time of registration. There may be some single occupancy rooms available for an additional cost of \$375 per person. If you are interested in a single occupancy room, please email volunteer@maranatha.org or call (916) 774-7700.

Excursions

Mid-week during the project, the group will take a break and have a one-day excursion up the Essequibo River. The volunteers will visit "Fort Island," which has two historical buildings that serve as museums for the history of Guyana. The museums outline the struggle between the Dutch, French, Spanish, and British to colonize this area in hopes of taking gold back to Europe. Guyana's history also includes the African slave trade. After a short stop on the island, the group will continue go upriver to another island that is the Aruwai Resort, where there is a swimming pool, beach volleyball, kayaks, paddle boats, a nice vegetarian lunch, and more.

At the end of the project, the group will also visit the famous Kaieteur Falls and Orinduik Falls. Located on the Potaro River in the Amazon rainforest, Kaieteur Falls is the world's largest single-drop waterfall. It is four times higher than Niagara Falls and about twice the height of Victoria Falls in southern Africa. The Potaro River eventually empties into the Essequibo River and, ultimately, the Caribbean Sea. Volunteers will enjoy views of the falls and hikes in Kaieteur National Park. Then, the group will also visit Orinduik Falls, which is a terraced set of waterfalls that visitors can walk among and enjoy the cool water. Both of these locations are located in the middle of the country, far from Georgetown, so volunteers will take a private flight from Georgetown to Kaieteur Falls and return to Georgetown that evening.



Leadership

George Carpenter | Project Coordinator

George and his wife Debbie reside in Madison, Tennessee, where George works at Madison Academy. He has worked in school administration for more than two decades, and throughout the years, he has led several international and domestic short-term mission trips for youth and young adults. George has always loved traveling and enjoys it even more when he can combine traveling with service. He will be joining the team as the project coordinator.



Jon Harvey, Construction Superintendent | Jon first joined Maranatha in 1993 when he went on a project with a group from Indiana Academy. He has served in the U.S. Navy as a SeeBee construction team member, and now he applies this knowledge on Maranatha projects as a construction leader. Each year he goes on mission trips to meet new people, experience the joy of fellowship, and spread the Gospel through construction.



Looking for More Leaders

This project still needs a VBS and Outreach Coordinator. If you are interested in leading any of these areas, please contact Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

Expenses

The participation fee covers housing at the Windjammer Hotel, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, local excursions, short-term travel insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by September 11 due to application processing time. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

All prices are listed in U.S. dollars. Payments can be made by cash or check, sent to the Maranatha office in California (please include your name and “Guyana Project – October 2017”) or by credit or debit card online or over the phone.

For volunteers residing outside the United States who want to pay by check, Maranatha accepts checks in U.S. dollars or the equivalent amount in Canadian dollars (use the exchange rate for the day you write the check). Canadian volunteers should be aware that Canada Revenue Agency does not permit Canadian charities to issue official tax receipts to volunteers for their trip expenses.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations, please have the money 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 small, individual 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 Georgetown:** \$1,000
- **Passport:** \$130 or \$110 for renewal
- **Exit Tax:** \$31/person

About Guyana

This South American country, with Venezuela to the west and Suriname (formerly Dutch Guyana) to the east, has a northern border on the Caribbean Sea. The majority of the country, which is about the size of Idaho, is covered in thick jungle and mostly undeveloped. In fact, 90% of the population lives on 10% of the land in Guyana, with most people living in the capital city of Georgetown.

Although Guyana borders the Caribbean, there are no white sandy beaches nor palm trees. Georgetown is six feet below sea level. When the Dutch ruled this area before the British, they built a seawall to keep the sea away. So instead of a beach, the coastline is composed of a lengthy seawall.

Ever since Europeans started establishing colonies in the Western World in the 1500s, the Dutch, French, Spanish, and English have sought Guyana. This involved wars, skirmishes, sales, and negotiations as Guyana passed from one European rule to another. Under the British, agriculture and trade expansion introduced Africans and East Indians into the population. Then in 1966, Guyana achieved a peaceful independence from Great Britain, changing the name from British Guyana to simply Guyana.

Each year, a steady stream of Guyanese leave the country, seeking opportunities elsewhere. As a result, the population has never exceeded 750,000.

The major people groups remaining in Guyana include East Indians, Africans, Amerindians (indigenous), and an emerging mixed population. This also means there is no major religion with plenty of Hindu, Muslim, and a variety of Christian denominations. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has approximately 62,000 members, with about one-third of them active in the church currently.

Travel Information

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the city of Georgetown, Guyana (see below). Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Volunteers will travel to the worksite each day by private bus.

Flights

Arrival | Please plan to arrive in Georgetown (airport code GEO) in the afternoon and evening of Thursday, October 12.

Departure | Please plan to depart from Georgetown in the morning or afternoon of Monday, October 23, 2017.

Flights to Georgetown can be limited, and you might find yourself flying on a smaller, little known airline. Recommended connections will probably route you through New York (JFK) or Miami (MIA).

Arriving Early or Staying Late

Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than October 12 or stay beyond October 23 to explore the country on your own. Please make your own hotel and transportation plans for 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@ciazumano.com

Butler Travel: 503-879-5005, by email with Nathan at nathan@butlertravel.com or with Ellen at ellen@butlertravel.com.

Kayak: www.kayak.com

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



Facts and Figures

Capital:
Georgetown

Population:
736,000

Language:
English

Climate:
Hot and humid; tropical

Religion:
Protestant 31%, Hindu 28%,
Catholic 8%, Muslim 7%

Currency:
Guyanese Dollar

Entry Requirements

Passport | All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (valid until April 23, 2018). 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.

Exit Tax | No visa is required for the country of Guyana. However, there is an exit tax of approximately \$31 USD. Some tickets will include this in your airfare. You can look into the fees and taxes charged with your ticket through your airline to see if it has been covered already. If not, you should plan to have cash available to pay this fee as you depart the country.

Citizens of countries other than the U.S. or Canada, please consult the Guyana 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 recommend vaccines for hepatitis A, typhoid, yellow fever, and an anti-malarial medication other than chloroquine.

Some of these you may already have and some you may deem unnecessary for this trip. You should schedule a consultation with a travel clinic doctor to talk about the medical risks in Guyana and the ways to minimize them.

Zika

Recently the Zika virus has been spreading around Central America and the Caribbean. This mosquito-borne disease acts very similar to a hard-hitting flu with symptoms lasting about two weeks. There is currently no vaccine or treatment for the disease, and the CDC has issued a **Level 2 warning**. This warning does not suggest that you postpone all travel, but it does urge travelers to take **heightened precautions** to avoid being bitten (see recommendations above).

This virus is still being studied, and information is continuing to be released. There are currently no known long-term effects; however, there does seem to be a link between the virus and possible birth defects in babies born from women who were infected during their pregnancy. The virus can remain in a woman's body for approximately eight weeks and in a man's body for approximately six months, and it can be spread through physical contact. If you or your partner is pregnant, think you might be pregnant, or trying to get pregnant in the next six months, Maranatha recommends speaking with your doctor to determine if you should travel.

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 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

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STORE

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All prices are excluding sales tax and shipping.

2017 MARANATHA T-SHIRT \$10



This 50/50 blend of polyester and cotton is an ultra-soft, ultra-comfy unisex T-shirt that feels like you've owned it for years. Represent Maranatha anywhere you go!

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.

HARD HAT \$11



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

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

*All confirmed volunteers on an International Maranatha Open Team receive a Maranatha t-shirt as part of their participation fee.

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