

Zimbabwe Project

Information Packet

Location: Hwange, Zimbabwe
Project Dates: March 1-14, 2018
Total Participation Fee: \$1,450*
(project fee \$860; excursion fee \$590)
Children 12 and under: \$1,300
(Age determined on the start date of the project)



**Flight to Victoria Falls is not included in the participation fee*

Maranatha in Zimbabwe

Maranatha started working in Zimbabwe at the start of 2012. Since then, volunteers have constructed an Education and Evangelism Center (EEC) in Bulawayo and numerous One-Day Churches and Schools throughout the country. As part of a larger effort to also provide clean water in Africa, Maranatha has drilled more than 50 water wells in Zimbabwe. Whenever possible, these wells are placed on the site of a Seventh-day Adventist church or school; later the source of clean water become a form of outreach to the community.

Project Overview

The Simangani congregation was started in 2005 by two local sisters. They, along with their children, met under trees. Over time, the group grew to more than 50 members, but without money for a proper church, the group had to build a shelter out of found materials. They assembled a frame from branches and a borrowed tin roof that would often blow over on windy days. After meeting this way for 11 years, the Simangani church received a Maranatha One-Day Church in April 2016. In addition to the structure, the congregation also received a brand new water well that has been drawing people to the church. However, funds are still limited, and while the congregation has been using the church, they lack the funds to complete the block walls.

On this Maranatha project, volunteers will lay the block walls for the building. The group will also reach out into the community through outreach programs such as children's ministry and health education.

Project Schedule

Thursday, March 1
Arrival in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Friday, March 2
First work day

Saturday, March 3
Worship with the local congregation

Sunday – Friday, March 4 - 9
Work days

Saturday, March 10
Worship with the local congregation

Sunday, March 11
Hwange National Park Safari

Monday, March 12
Hwange National Park Safari

Tuesday, March 13
Victoria Falls tour and shopping

Wednesday, March 14
Departure from Victoria Falls,
Zimbabwe

Accommodations

During the project, volunteers will stay at the Hwange Angling Club on the Zambezi river. These accommodations are older and rustic, but the grounds are very spacious and comfortable. The hotel has gorgeous views of the Zambezi river. Overall the accommodations range between a 1- and 2-star hotel. The rooms are nice and clean, but it is not a resort. We mention this in advance so you can adjust your expectations for this mission trip.



The Angling Club has eleven chalets with three single beds, a bathroom, a sitting room, and a kitchenette. In addition, there are dormitories with more single beds. Couples will be in the chalets, and single volunteers will be in the dormitories. Volunteers should plan on having roommates. If you would like to room with someone in particular, please let us know.



Bedding linens are provided; however, while they are clean, they are also well-used. Volunteers may prefer to bring a set of sheets to use during the project. Volunteers will also need to bring their own towels and washcloths. There is no AC, but each of the rooms has a ceiling fan. Hot water is not available in all rooms and Wi-Fi is not available on campus. There is a pool at the hotel that volunteers can enjoy in the afternoon and evening.

The group will be here during the rainy season, and mosquitos could be a nuisance. Mosquito nets are not provided, but all the windows are screened. Volunteers may consider bringing a mosquito net and a way to hang it, or you could bring plenty of bug repellent.

Excursions

At the end of the project, volunteers will visit Victoria Falls and Hwange National Park. The excursion is considered part of the entire project. All hotels, food, transportation, activities, and park entrances during the excursion days are covered by the excursion fee paid to Maranatha.

On Sunday, volunteers will travel approximately two and a half hours to Hwange National Park, the largest natural reserve in Zimbabwe. The park is home to more than 100 mammal species including gemsbok, hyena, wild dogs, lions, leopards, and cheetah. Hwange also hosts a very large population of elephants which can be seen in vast numbers at water holes throughout the park. Volunteers will go on a two-day safari. For these two nights, volunteers will stay at the Hwange Safari Lodge. Located on the edge of Hwange National Park, the hotel overlooks watering holes that are often visited by antelope, zebra, elephants, and buffalo. The hotel is comprised of beautifully furnished rooms with either matrimonial or two twin beds. All rooms have private bathrooms and air conditioning. All rooms overlook the watering hole, the savanna bush, or the swimming pool. You might even spot an elephant! Limited Wi-Fi is available. For more information visit: www.hwangesafarilodge.com



On Tuesday, March 13, volunteers will travel back to Victoria Falls where they'll enjoy a tour of the falls as well as time to explore the town. Victoria Falls is one of the seven Wonders of the World, and it is truly a magnificent sight. Upon arrival in Victoria Falls, you will hear the thundering water and see the mist rising more than 1,600 feet into the air. The falls are more than a mile wide, and during peak water flow, nearly 150 million gallons of water, per minute, roar down the drop-off. In the evening, the group will go on a sunset river tour on the Zambezi. The group will stay at a luxury hotel in Victoria Falls for one night before flying out the following day.

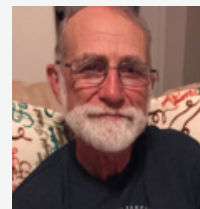
On excursion, volunteers should plan on staying in double occupancy rooms with a roommate.

On the 13th in the afternoon, volunteers can explore town or do some additional activities in the area on their own (microlight flight, lion and cheetah walks, elephant rides etc.) These activities range from \$50-180 per person. Some activities are across the border in Zambia, so volunteers interested in them could need a multiple entry or KAZA visa as well as might consider spending an extra day in Victoria falls on their own.

Leadership

Phil Becker | Project Coordinator

Phil and Virginia Becker join the group from Washington state. Phil has lived his entire life in Washington where he worked as a logger for many years. He first joined Maranatha in 1992 when he traveled to the Dominican Republic. Since then he has led Maranatha groups to various parts of Central and South America. This will be his first project on the continent of Africa, and he is looking forward to sharing this experience with the rest of the volunteers. When not on a Maranatha project, Phil and Virginia enjoy spending time with their three grown children and their four grandchildren and helping out at their local church.



We Need Your Help

If you are interested in leading a children's ministry program for the local kids, please contact Maranatha at (916) 774-7799 and join the Zimbabwe Project.

Expenses

The participation fee of \$1,450 covers housing, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, translators, local excursions, short-term travel insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags. For accounting purposes, this fee is broken down into a participation fee of \$860 (which is tax-deductible for U.S. volunteers) and an excursion fee of \$590 (which is not tax-deductible)

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by February 1 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 "Zimbabwe Project – March 2018") or by credit or debit card online or over the phone.

For Canadian tax-deductible receipts, payments must be made by check to the Maranatha Volunteers International (Canada) Association (address located at the end of this information packet. At this time Maranatha cannot issue tax-deductible receipts for credit card payments.

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 your participation fee to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

- **Flight to Victoria Falls:** \$1100-1500
- **Passport:** \$130 or \$110 for renewal
- **Visa:** \$30-75 (upon arrival in Harare)
- **Yellow Fever Vaccine:** \$100 -\$150

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 allows 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.

Travel Information

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the city of Victoria Falls. If you arrive or depart outside the posted time frames, you may have long wait times at the airport or may be responsible for paying the additional transportation for your individual airport transfer.

Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Together, volunteers will travel by bus to the project location.

Flights

Arrival | Please plan to arrive in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (airport code VFA) in the afternoon of Thursday, March 1.

Departure | Please plan to depart from Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (VFA) in the morning or afternoon of Wednesday, 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. If you have any questions, feel free to call Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

Travel Resources

Azumano Travel: 800-777-5149 or by email with Erle Dpenha or Azumano Team at corporatetravel@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



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: U.S. dollar

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

Entry Requirements

Passport | All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (September 15, 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.

Tourist Visa | In addition to a passport, travelers must have a valid tourist visa for the country of Zimbabwe. This visa can be purchased upon arrival in Victoria Falls. U.S. citizens can purchase a 30-day, single-entry visa for \$30 USD. Canadian citizens can purchase a single-entry visa for \$75. This must be paid in cash in U.S. dollars.

Citizens of other countries, please consult the Zimbabwean 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 Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends vaccines for hepatitis A, typhoid, and a malaria preventative 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 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 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
(Canada) Association**
c/o V06494C
PO Box 6494, Station Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3
CANADA

THE MARANATHA

STORE

BUY MARANATHA MERCHANDISE!

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



TO ORDER, VISIT MARANATHA.ORG/STORE OR CALL (916) 774-7700

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.

