



Côte d'Ivoire Project

Location: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Project Dates: December 3-13, 2020

Total Fee: \$1,250*

Children 12 and under: \$1,100

Final Deadline: November 2, 2020

**All amounts are listed in U.S. dollars.*

International flights are not included in the participation fee



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Niangon Adventist Secondary School

The Niangon Adventist Church began in the 1980s in the Yopougon neighborhood of Abidjan. The church began meeting in a rented shop, but the congregation grew so rapidly they quickly outgrew the space and acquired a plot of land for a new building. In 1992 the members celebrated their first Sabbath in their new church. When the congregation acquired the land, they also hoped to start a school on the same property. The neighborhood is densely populated with many children, and while there are plenty of primary schools, there are few secondary schools. The government is also eager to build more high schools, and the church's campus would fulfill a big need. Adventist Education is a top priority for church leaders, but funds have been difficult to acquire. Finally, in 2019, Maranatha agreed to build several classrooms and as part of the larger effort in Côte d'Ivoire. The goal is to have space for nearly 400 students.

Construction: Volunteers will lay block walls for one of the new buildings.

Outreach: Oftentimes the local churches enjoy when visitors put on programs, focused on Bible stories and health, for the children. This area in particular would welcome these outreach activities. If we have enough volunteers and people with an interest in this area, we can add this to the job scope.

Accommodations

Our group will stay at The Hotel KIMI in the Yopougon neighborhood of Abidjan. Volunteers will gather for meals and worship in one of the meeting halls at the hotel.

COVID-19

Maranatha is moving forward with preparations for this project in faith that it will take place as planned. However, there is always a chance that situations can change as countries adapt to this post-COVID world. If you are planning on participating, please go ahead and register. However, you may consider waiting to book flights, or you may choose to purchase additional flight insurance to minimize the potential risk if this trip is modified or cancelled. We will update you if the status of this project changes.

MARANATHA IN CÔTE d'IVOIRE

Maranatha is a responsive organization that works with the Seventh-day Adventist Church; all efforts are by invitation from local leadership.

In 2019 Maranatha kicked off a new effort in Côte d'Ivoire. The Seventh-day Adventist church in the country is relatively small with only 15,000 members. The majority of congregations don't have a building of their own, and in order to fulfill their mission in the country, they need more schools. Adventist Church leadership for West Central Africa requested Maranatha's assistance and Maranatha is currently committed to building several schools and churches in the greater Abidjan area.

Amenities

Room Style	One queen
Private Bathroom	Yes
Hot Water	Yes
Bed Linens	Yes
Towels	Yes, but not washcloths
Air Conditioning	Yes
WiFi	Yes, but slower than you'd expect at home
Laundry	Yes, at an additional expense
Pool	No
Distance to Work Locations	15 - 30 min

Excursions

Maranatha projects often include a short excursion and may also offer an extended excursion as an optional add-on. If you choose to go on an excursion without Maranatha, please schedule them for before or after the project dates so you won't miss out on any of the Maranatha experience.

Assinie Beach

During the project, the group will take a day off of work and travel to Assinie, one of Côte d'Ivoire's famous beach towns about two hours from Abidjan. The group will spend the afternoon at a beach hotel located on the edge of a lagoon. Shuttle boats can take guests across the lagoon to the coastline where the waves break on the beach. There are jet skis and other beach activities available for an additional cost. The group will enjoy lunch at the hotel. On the way to Assinie, the group will pass through Grand Bassam, which was once the capital of French Côte d'Ivoire. At one time the town was full of Parisian mansions and colonial municipal buildings. Today, some of the old buildings have been restored but most are left in ruins.

Chocolate Factory

During the week, volunteers will break early from work one afternoon and have the opportunity to take a short tour of a local chocolate factory in Abidjan. Chocolate is one of Cote d'Ivoire's most profitable exports, and visitors will have a chance to see how the chocolate bars are made and taste the various forms of chocolate. If they wish, volunteers can upgrade the tour for an additional \$17 and make their own chocolate bar.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 3
Arrival in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Friday, December 4
First work day

Saturday, December 5
Worship with a local congregation

Sunday - Friday, Dec. 6-11
Work days with mid-week beach excursion

Saturday, December 12
Worship with the local congregation

Sunday, December 13
Departure from Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire



Leadership

Sheena Smith Project Coordinator
Danny Poljak Construction Superintendent
Gilberto Araujo Maranatha Country Director
Eder Lucca Maranatha Volunteer Support



Sheena Smith



Danny Poljak



Gilberto Araujo



Eder Lucca

We Need Your Help

The team is looking for additional leaders in the following areas:

- Team Medic
- Outreach or Children's Ministry Coordinator

If you are interested in leading out, please contact Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

Expenses

Participation Fee: \$1,250
Children 12 and Under: \$1,100
Deadlines: November 2, 2020

All amounts are listed in U.S. dollars. Ages are determined on the start date of the project. For accounting purposes, the fee is broken down into a tax-deductible participation fee and a non-deductible excursion fee. Discounts are available for families of three staying in the same room.

Payments can be made in three ways:

- Check sent to the Maranatha office in California (include a note with your name and "Cote d'Ivoire Project - December 2020")
- Online using the project payment link in your confirmation email*
- Over the phone at (916) 774-7700*

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

If you are fundraising or receiving donations, please have donations sent directly to you, or work with your local church treasurer to collect funds at the church and issue tax-deductible receipts. Do not have donors send individual, small checks directly to Maranatha. If you have questions regarding this process, please contact Maranatha.

TYPICAL DAILY SCHEDULE

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
7:30 a.m.	Group worship
8:00 a.m.	Depart for construction/clinics
12:00 Noon	Lunch
4:00 p.m.	Return from work
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Group worship

The key word for mission trips is FLEXIBILITY. The above schedule is our plan, but it may be adjusted due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Accommodations
- Vegetarian meals
- Ground transportation
- Short-term insurance
- Portion of construction costs
- Portion of outreach activities
- Local excursion activities
- T-shirt and luggage tags

ABOUT CÔTE d'IVOIRE

- The country name is pronounced “Coat DeeVwa.”
- In 1986 the government declared Côte d'Ivoire the official name, but despite the government’s request, the English translation of Ivory Coast is still often used.
- Côte d'Ivoire is located on the southern coast of western Africa and is about the same size as Germany.
- The political capital is Yamaoussoukro and is located in the center of the country; the economic capital is Abidjan and is located on the coast.
- In 1960, Côte d'Ivoire gained independence from France peacefully and kept connections with Europe, becoming an economic powerhouse until the 1980s when political turmoil and civil wars hurt the economy.
- Côte d'Ivoire is the world’s largest exporter of cocoa beans. Other exports include coffee and palm oil.
- The country is mostly a large plateau rising gently from the coastline with the southern coast covered in tropical forests and the north mostly comprising grasslands.

Foreign Cash

Côte d'Ivoire uses the West African CFA Franc and has an exchange rate of approximately 600 francs to 1 U.S. dollar (May 2020). This exchange can be made at the airport, or the project coordinator can also exchange money for you at a flat rate in increments of \$10 or \$20. Many countries offer better exchange rates for larger bills (\$50s and 100s), so if you bring small bills you may get a different exchange rate. Any cash you bring should be in new, unmarked, and unturned bills.

While some establishments accept credit and debit cards, most small shops only accept cash. It is wise to let your credit card company know the dates you will be traveling so they don't block your card when you use it in a foreign country.

Tipping

Your project coordinator will tip the guides on group excursions. If you feel like someone (guide, hotel staff, etc.) has provided excellent service during your trip, you are more than welcome to show your gratitude with additional tips. If you have any questions during the project about whether or not tipping would be appropriate, your project coordinator or Maranatha in-country support staff can help you understand the local culture.

ESTIMATE OF ADDITIONAL COSTS

- International Flights: \$1,100-2,100
- Entrance Visa: 73 Euros (approx \$75 USD)
- Passport: \$130 or \$110 for renewal
- Yellow Fever Vaccine: \$50-300
- Optional Vaccines: \$50-125



Electricity

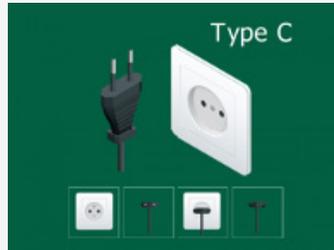
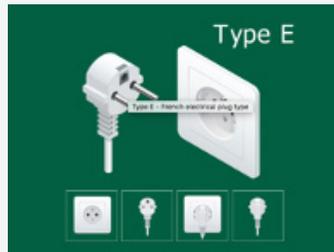
- **Current:** 220-240 volt AC
- **Outlet:** Type E or C

Non-dual-voltage appliances will need a voltage converter in addition to the plug adapter.

Weather

Weather patterns can change suddenly. Check the 10-day forecast for the project area before traveling.

Abidjan | Expect temperatures in the mid 70s to low 90s during the day. November is approaching the end of the rainy season, so you should expect a few rain showers during the project.



FACTS AND FIGURES

Capital: Yamoussoukro (legislative) and Abidjan (administrative and economic)

Population: 26.26 million

Language: French, Dioula, 60 native dialects

Climate: Tropical along coast, semiarid in the north

Religion: Muslim 43%, Catholic 17%, Protestant 16%, None 19%

Currency: West African CFA Franc

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Please complete the online registration form and wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare.

If this is your first time traveling abroad (or you need a refresher course), you may want to check out Maranatha's [International Traveler Guide](#) (available at maranatha.org under volunteer resources), which shares tips on everything from booking travel to communicating with those at home.

Flights

Please carefully follow these guidelines when booking your travel.

If you arrive or depart outside these posted windows, you may have long wait times at the airport or be responsible for paying the additional transportation costs for your individual airport transfer.

If you have questions about your itinerary, please contact Maranatha prior to booking to avoid any additional charges.

Arrive: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (ABJ), Thursday, Dec. 3, after 5:00 p.m.

Depart: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (ABJ), Sunday, Dec. 13, in the afternoon

Arriving Early or Staying Late?

Some of you may choose to extend your travel before or after the project. Since our volunteers bring so much to the shared experience of the project, we ask that you participate in the entirety of the Maranatha project (during the advertised dates). Any additional travel outside of the Maranatha project should be scheduled for before or after the project dates to avoid mid-project interruptions. If you choose to add additional travel, you are responsible for making your own hotel and transportation arrangements for the time outside of the arrival and departure windows listed above. If you have any questions, feel free to call Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.

Travel Resources

- **CI Azumano Travel:** 800-454-4099 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.

Entry Requirements

Below are the requirements for U.S. and Canadian citizens. If you hold a passport from another country, please consult the Indian embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.

Passport | All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (June 13, 2021). 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.

Visa | Visitors must also have a tourist visa for the country of Côte d'Ivoire before traveling. A document with complete visa requirements and tips for filling everything out will be sent once you're confirmed for this project. You must complete the visa form online. Once approval is issued, it is valid for entry within three months, so Maranatha recommends you wait until the beginning of October to apply.

Yellow Fever | Travelers must show proof of having a yellow fever vaccine upon entry in Côte d'Ivoire. Please note that vaccine availability is currently very limited in North America, so prices can be expensive. Depending on where you live, you may need to schedule your appointment well in advance and/or travel to the nearest large city.

Traveling With Minors

Birth Certificate | In an effort to prevent child-trafficking, some hotels and airports require proof of parent-child relationships, even if your child is a teenager. Maranatha recommends that guardians bring a copy of their child's birth certificate and any other documents (guardianship papers etc) to answer these questions.

Parental Consent Form | If a legal minor (under the age of 18 on the date you depart) is traveling without both parents or legal guardians, Maranatha requires a parental consent form. This form confirms that both guardians have consented to their child leaving the country with an appointed person and Maranatha. It also gives Maranatha permission to treat the child medically in case of an emergency.

You can find this form online at www.maranatha.org/resources. Mail one notarized original to Maranatha and keep another notarized original with you as you travel. The form will ask for two appointees. The first will be the guardian traveling with the minor. The other will be Sheena Smith, Maranatha's project coordinator.

Special Circumstances

- **Divorced Parents:** Both parents must still sign the form. If one parent has sole legal and physical custody, provide a copy of the divorce decree stating such.
- **Deceased Parent:** Provide copy of death certificate..
- **Legal Guardians:** Provide a copy of guardianship paperwork.
- **Other Situations:** Contact Maranatha for guidance.

Luggage Considerations

Please check with your airline or travel agent for luggage weight and piece allowances for each portion of your itinerary. In addition to your checked bags, airlines usually allow one carry-on item, as well as a personal item such as a purse or small day pack. However, each airline is different, so read through your airline's baggage policy before you head to the airport.

Sometimes bags are delayed, so please bring your personal medications and a day's worth of clothes and toiletries in your carry-on luggage, just in case. We recommend that you keep your carry-on luggage with you; do not "gate-check" your bags, especially if the bags have electronics or camera gear.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Travel Safety

Understanding the culture and educating yourself about travel in India is the best way to keep safe. Below are a few tips for you to consider.

- Leave valuables (expensive or sentimental) at home.
- Dress conservatively; a flashy wardrobe attracts more attention.
- Use a money belt or concealed pouch for passports and cash. Watch your wallet.
- Don't leave valuables unattended in open sight.
- Avoid marginal areas of cities, dark alleys, and crowds. Use caution and keep moving if strangers, including vendors, approach you on the street.
- Don't travel alone or at night.

Worksite Safety

Maranatha has a very high safety record on the worksite. The safety equipment you'll need will depend on the project scope and what job you do (see packing list). Hard hats and closed-toe shoes are required on all job sites.

Short Term Travel Insurance

All volunteers will be covered by a short-term insurance policy from the time they leave their home country until the time they arrive back in their home country. The policy does not have a deductible and covers accidents and illnesses. As with all insurances, some exclusions apply. Maranatha does not carry or maintain health, medical, workers compensation, or disability insurance coverage. The coverage amounts and details can be found at www.maranatha.org/insurance.

For volunteers extending their travel before or after a project, the insurance will start and end with the Maranatha project dates. If you would like to extend your coverage for extra travel at your own expense, contact Maranatha.

You will receive a brochure, prior to your project, listing the policy number and contact information should you need assistance during your travel.

Medical Recommendations

While Maranatha does everything in our power to ensure the safety of our volunteers, it is also advisable to do your own research when it comes to the medical precautions. We recommend that you schedule a consultation with your physician or a travel clinic to discuss the medical risks in India and the ways to minimize them. If at any time during the project you start to feel sick, speak with the project medical professional and the project leader as soon as possible.

CONSTRUCTION SITE SAFETY RULES



- Hard Hats Required
- Closed-toe Shoes Required
- Personal Safety Items
 - Eye Protection
 - Ear Protection
 - Masks
 - Gloves
 - Long Pants
- Use care with ladders and scaffolding
- Stay Hydrated
- No Horseplay

MARANATHA VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL

COVID-19 and Other Viruses

When traveling, you may be exposed to viruses, such as the recent COVID-19 virus. We recommend a few simple tips to minimize your risk:

- Practice social distancing by keeping a distance of 6 feet between you and others when possible.
- Wear a face covering over your nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds.
- If you don't have access to soap and water, use hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, rubbing your hands until dry.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces using disinfectant wipes.
- Wash your hands after shaking hands with others or handling cash.
- Get adequate sleep.
- Drink plenty of purified water.
- Try to eat a well-balanced diet, avoiding sugar.

Malaria

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all locations in Côte d'Ivoire are considered to be at risk for malaria.

There are different oral medications that can lower your risk of contracting malaria. You will need a prescription and each has different side effects and dosages, so speak with a doctor. Please note that the malaria strain present in Côte d'Ivoire is chloroquine-resistant.

Mosquitos and Other Insects

Mosquitos and other flying insects can carry a variety of diseases including dengue, malaria, yellow fever, chikungunya, and zika. Personal precautions are strongly recommended to lower the risk of being bitten.

- Use a bug repellent with a 30-50 percent concentration of DEET.
- Wear long sleeves, long pants, and closed-toe shoes when possible.
- Avoid areas of standing water.
- Avoid spending a lot of time outside during dusk and dawn.
- Sleep with a mosquito net when possible.

Food and Water

Food and water safety standards vary greatly from country to country, and we recommend that you exercise caution with the food and water you consume while abroad. Maranatha will provide purified water, but please bring your own reusable water bottle to refill from the large containers.

- Eat only food provided by Maranatha.
- Purchase only commercially packaged snacks, not from street stands.
- Drink only purified water and sealed juices and sodas.
- Do not drink items with ice cubes.
- Do not brush your teeth with tap water, use purified water.

VACCINES

Tetanus
Required by Maranatha

Yellow Fever
Required by Côte d'Ivoire Government

Typhoid
Recommended by CDC*

Hepatitis A
Recommended by CDC

Anti-Malarial Medication
Recommended by CDC

Polio (and other routine vaccines)
Recommended by CDC

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

Allergies and Dietary Restrictions

Maranatha provides three vegetarian meals each day. We ask for your allergies on your registration form and will do our best to accommodate your needs. However, on large projects especially, it is harder for our cooks to accommodate special requests. If your diet is very restrictive (vegan, gluten free, etc) we recommend that you bring items such as soy milk powder, gluten-free bread, etc. to supplement the meals provided by the cooks.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Cultural Sensitivity

It's important to enter another culture with respect and understanding of their traditions. Women in Côte d'Ivoire are usually expected to dress and act more modestly than what is sometimes seen in North America.

Cultural sensitivity also means we will respect Adventist culture in Côte d'Ivoire. Adventists in Côte d'Ivoire tend to be more conservative than Adventists in the United States and Canada. During the project, we will be sensitive to this by dressing as modestly as possible. Pants and cap sleeves are preferred to shorts and tank tops. For church activities, women will need to have skirts that reach past the knees, and men are expected to wear ties if they are involved in the activities on the platform. Another option is to purchase and wear local attire like the church members wear on Sabbaths. The locals will greatly appreciate the gesture.

Maranatha Lifestyle

Each mission trip is a unique experience, and during the project, there is a great need for flexibility. Volunteers on Maranatha projects come from a variety of backgrounds and lifestyles. As we all become one big family for two weeks, we will need to refrain from some of our personal desires and freedoms and adopt the lifestyle of the group.

On all of our projects we ask that volunteers refrain from using alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other non-prescription drugs during the trip.

Maranatha projects are open to individuals of all faith backgrounds and we ask that all volunteers come into the project with an attitude of respect towards one another. On Maranatha projects, worship services are held on Sabbath (Saturday), and we ask all volunteers to participate in the experience with the group. While we do our best to make provisions to avoid extensive travel or utilizing restaurants on Sabbath, sometimes it is hard to avoid. Please be aware of this and if you have any questions, please speak with your project coordinator.

HOW TO REGISTER

1. Complete online registration form
2. Check email
3. Make payment(s)*
4. Book flights
5. Send itinerary and passport copy to Maranatha

*If for any reason you need to cancel your participation, deposits are refundable up until one month prior to the project (unless noted otherwise). Cancellations within 30 days of the project are subject to a fee of \$150 per person, and the remainder will be refunded depending on the project arrangements already made on your behalf.

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

PACKING LIST

A checklist of recommended items to take with you on a Maranatha project.

Work Wardrobe

- Long work pants (2-4 pairs)
- T-shirts and/or long-sleeved cotton shirts for work (5-7)
- Strong, flexible construction gloves (REQUIRED)
- Hard hat (REQUIRED)
- Handkerchief or bandana for neck protection
- Sunglasses or safety glasses
- Sturdy work shoes

Tool List

The more tools the group brings, the more likely it is that everyone can keep involved in the construction process.

- Measuring tape (25')
- Box level (2-3') – one per family
- Block trowel (10-12") pie-shaped
- Marking pencils
- Lineman's pliers - optional
- Masonry line and line blocks - optional
- Rubber dish gloves - optional
- Block hammer - optional

Items to Remember

- Maranatha t-shirt
- Passport
- Photocopies of your passport in checked baggage
- Copy of your airline ticket or itinerary
- Entrance visa confirmation
- Minor Consent Form (for those under 18)
- Copy of final packet with project addresses
- Personal prescribed medication (in carry-on) as well as items like Tylenol, Band-Aids, Pepto Bismol etc.
- Shoes and socks
- Underclothes
- Slacks
- Casual shirts and tops
- MEN- Dress shirt and tie for Sabbath
- WOMEN- Dresses and/or skirt and blouse with sleeves for Sabbath
- Hat for sun protection
- Sleepwear
- Shorts
- Modest swimsuit
- Light jacket and/or sweatshirt

- Flip-flops or sandals
- Personal toiletries (soap, deodorant, etc.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Insect repellent (30% DEET or higher)
- Sunblock (SPF 30+)
- Lip balm (with sunblock)
- Water bottle
- Bible
- Camera, batteries, and memory cards
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Washcloth
- Cash for meals in airports, souvenirs, or special projects that may come up

Optional Items

- Lightweight daypack or similar bag
- Neck pillow/eye mask for flight
- Journal and pens
- 220-volt converter and plug adapters
- Powdered Gatorade or equivalent Nuun or Camelback electrolyte tablets (for overcoming dehydration)
- Earplugs
- Small alarm clock
- Snacks
- Rope for personal clothesline
- Mosquito net and a rope to hang it
- Toilet paper or tissues
- Battery-run personal fan
- Small instrument you play

Optional Outreach Items

- Money for purchasing items locally (this helps the local economy)
- School supplies (pens, pencils, erasers, notebooks, backpacks)
- Christian books and pamphlets
- Bibles and hymnals
- Group toys (jump ropes, soccer balls with pumps, etc.)
- Toothbrushes and toothpastes

Requested Outreach Items

You will receive an updated packing list closer to the project, which will likely include special outreach requests for the children's ministry and medical clinic programs.

THE MARANATHA

STORE

BUY MARANATHA MERCHANDISE!

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

2020 MARANATHA T-SHIRT \$10



The 2020 Maranatha shirt is a poly/cotton heather blend by Bella + Canvas. Color is "heather true royal"; unisex sizing.

HARD HAT \$13



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.

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. Available in Khaki and Navy.

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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