

FAQ's on Taize

What is the purpose of this trip?

This is a spiritual formation trip, aimed at those seeking intentional devotional time, Sabbath, fellowship, and space to seek and listen for God in a cross-cultural setting. This is not a traditional missions trip focused solely on service in a lesser-developed country. This is a journey of spiritual focus, encompassing worship and prayer, fellowship, and practical service in the global church.

We will spend a week at Taize (pronounced ta-zay), a monastery in rural France. We will then spend a week serving alongside our sisters and brothers in Christ at a local church. This may take multiple forms such as farming or working with refugee populations in a city. We seek to serve as the local church can use us. This will not be a construction based service project.

What is Taize?

Taize is a community made up of over a hundred brothers, Catholics and from various Protestant backgrounds, coming from around thirty nations. By its very existence, the community is a “parable of community” that wants its life to be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and between separated peoples. Since the 1960s people have come to Taize from around the world to participate in their meetings. From its beginning the community has been inspired by two aims: to live in communion with God through prayer and to be a leaven of peace and trust in the midst of the human family. A stay at Taizé is an opportunity to seek communion with God in prayer, singing, silence and reflection. It can be possible to rediscover an inner peace, a meaning to life and a new impetus. Experiencing a simple life shared with others reminds us that daily life is the place where Christ is waiting for us. Please read more at www.taize.fr.

What are the dates of this trip?

We are tentatively planning to fly out of SAN or LAX on Saturday, July 20, 2013. We will be in Taize from the afternoon of Sunday, July 21 through the morning of Sunday, July 28. Once we leave Taize, we will travel to the location of the second half of our trip. We will return to SAN or LAX on Saturday, August 3.

What ages can attend this trip?

This trip is geared towards mature high school students through senior adults. Taize targets ages 17-29, but does allow 15-16 year olds, as well as people over 30 years of age. Many of the workshops during the week at Taize are created for specific age groups. Taize does have a limit on the number of adults over the age of 30 that can come with a team. We are in communication with them on what this means to us.

What does a typical day at Taize look like?

Monday through Friday:

8:15 am - Morning prayer, then breakfast

10 am - Introduction to the day with a brother of the community followed by quiet reflection or small group discussion

12:20 pm - Midday prayer, then lunch

2 pm - Optional song-practice

During the afternoon - international small groups or practical work

5:15 pm - Tea

5:45 pm - Theme workshops

7 pm - Supper

8:30 pm - Evening prayer, then vigil with songs in the church, followed by night silence. Friday evening prayer is followed by prayer around the Cross.

Saturday:

3:15 pm - Theme workshops

8:30 pm - Evening prayer with candles to celebrate the paschal mystery

Sunday:

8:45 am - Breakfast

10 am - Morning Eucharist

1 pm - Lunch

7 pm - Supper

8:30 pm - Evening prayer

What is the lodging at Taize?

Singles will be lodged in a tent or a dormitory (men and women separate). Couples, when possible, will be housed in a twin-bed room in Taize or a village nearby. There is limited

accommodation for those requiring special facilities, i.e. the elderly, those with a disability, or using a wheelchair. Accommodations can be requested ahead of time, but will be given when we actually arrive.

Can you describe the kind of work we would be doing at Taize?

There is no specific mention of work while staying at Taize, but the expectation should be that you will need to participate in the maintenance of Taize. This could include cleaning bathrooms, joining the welcome team, serving food, etc..

What should we bring to Taize?

A sleeping bag or sheets, a towel, and a Bible.

Clothing should be suitable for daily church services. During the summer months, even if bare shoulders or very short shorts may be acceptable in some cultures, they can be quite shocking in others.

Where will we be serving the second week of the trip?

The second week of our trip is not known at this moment. We are in conversation with several pastors in Western Europe to find out if they would be willing to host our group and allow us to serve their local church.

What will be doing the second week of the trip?

The purpose of the second week of the trip is to live out the community, disciplines, and spirit of our previous week spent in Taize. We do not have set plans or expectations on how we can help a local church. We want to be willing to be used for whatever purpose or need a church may have. Our intent is to be the hands and feet of Christ and to just be available to them.

How much will the trip cost?

The total cost of the trip will be in the range of \$2,000-\$2,500 per person. Since we don't know where we will be the second week of the trip, we don't know what the travel costs will be yet.

Travel will be approximately 75% of the total cost. We are anticipating that the airfare will be approximately \$1,300-\$1,500 per person. A week in Taize (food & lodging) will cost \$70 for those under the age of 30 and \$165 for those over the age of 30.

When is the money due?

A non-refundable \$100 deposit is due on November 30. This will allow us to reserve our spot in Taize. The first 25% installment of the total cost will be due by January 31, the second 25% installment will be due by March 31, the third 25% installment will be due by April 30, and the final 25% installment will be due by May 31.

Will there be fundraisers or financial assistance for the trip?

The group will have the opportunity to hold as many fundraisers as necessary to offset the costs of the trip. If you would like to volunteer to lead or plan a fundraiser, please contact the team leaders to help with your efforts.

Limited financial assistance may be available to those who need it.

What will the training look like?

Intentional team training will be held leading up to the trip. Expect trainings to be held every other week as we get closer to the date. This training is essential for team preparation, to be good guests, to coordinate trip details, and to prepare ourselves spiritually. We may visit a local monastery, experience a Taize-style service at a local church, and/or read devotions together as a team.

For those that do not live in San Diego, they will still be expected to participate in the trainings via Skype, or by using the materials and checking in with the team leaders.

What if I want to plan my own travel or stay longer?

You are more than welcome to plan your own travel, to meet us in Taize, or to stay longer at the conclusion of the second week of the trip. However, during this two week period (July 21, 2013 through August 2, 2013), you will be expected to be part of this team at Taize and at the local church. SDFC and its team leaders will only be responsible for those individuals that will be travelling with the team.

How can I apply for the trip?

To apply for this trip, please complete a Taize application, which you can pick up from the church office. Applications should be completed and turned in to the church office or to a team leader by October 30. The team leaders will review the applications confidentially, ensuring that the goals and purpose of the trip will not be compromised by any of the team members.

Can I invite people who don't go to SDFC?

Yes, you are more than welcome to invite people who do not attend SDFC. However, we may need to limit the number of adults over 30 years of age. The application process, travel arrangements, and training schedule will apply to everyone on the team.

Who are the team leaders?

Jared and Sophie Callahan and Ryan and Wendy Kessler have committed to lead and plan this trip. Please contact any of them for more information, further clarification, or with your questions.

Jared Callahan - jaredjcallahan@gmail.com or 619-228-3485

Sophie Callahan - sophiemcallahan@gmail.com or 480-703-0795

Ryan Kessler - teamkesssd@gmail.com or 619-990-7601

Wendy Kessler - wendykessler3@gmail.com or 619-840-3818