

TRINITY ABLAZE IN KENYA

Spring and Fall Mission Outreach

The following is important information meant to answer questions regarding the Ablaze in Kenya mission outreach.

GOALS FOR THE MISSION OUTREACH

1. Conduct eyeglass mission in congregations as directed by the ELCK (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya)
2. Partner with the ELCK leadership to bring outreach missions to locations TBD
3. Partner with host congregation evangelism teams to present the Gospel message of Salvation through Jesus Christ alone to each person who visits the eyeglass clinics.

APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION FEE DEADLINE

Approximately 3 months before mission trip – Minimum \$600 non-refundable deposit by check payable; to Trinity Ablaze in Kenya. Completed application to Trinity Lutheran Church – Ray and Flora Tacquard

Approximately 2 months before mission trip – Balance of \$1000 is due, a check payable to Trinity Ablaze in Kenya. A ticket will not be purchased for you until this payment is made. Once tickets have been purchased there will be no refunds.

COST

If you are a member of a Connect Congregation* the basic cost of this mission is:

\$1600 from each participant

\$1600 from the Vision for Kenya congregation for each participant

Each individual is responsible for the cost of his/her immunizations, which can be a substantial amount. Check to see if your medical insurance covers immunizations needed for travel to Africa.

If you are not a member of a Connect Congregation, the cost of the mission is \$3200 from each participant.

*A Connect Congregation is a congregation that has decided to participate by sending members or teams on future Ablaze In Kenya missions, by a declaration of intent by the leadership of the sending congregation. The \$1600 from each participant covers his/her personal contribution. Once a congregation has declared their intention to be permanently involved in the outreach, that congregation will ultimately assume responsibility to pay for all on-ground expenses (food, lodging, transportation) and vision clinic supplies (frames, lenses, eye medication) provided for the mission work undertaken by its members.

SCHEDULE/ITINERARY

Thursday-Friday – travel days from Houston to Nairobi

Saturday – Make final clinic preparations; recover from jetlag, worship, sightseeing and shopping in Nairobi

Sunday – teams travel to clinic locations throughout Kenya

Monday-Friday – conduct eyeglass clinic during the day, devotions and fellowship in the evening

Saturday –travel back to Nairobi, rest, meet and share experiences with other team members, souvenir shopping

Saturday night and Sunday – travel days from Nairobi to Houston

PERSONAL TRAVEL

Some team members choose to schedule personal travel after a mission to Kenya, staying longer to do sightseeing. It is permissible for a mission team member to ask Ray Tacquard to book their tickets with different return dates, providing: 1. You assume responsibility for communicating exactly whose ticket(s) will differ from the groups' tickets. 2. You provide exact booking instruction (names, dates, etc) by the booking deadline. Once notification is given to Ray Tacquard, no changes are allowable. 3. You assume complete financial responsibility for the footlockers assigned to you to reach Houston. Early payment for footlocker charges is expected upon receipt of invoice from Trinity Ablaze In Kenya.

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIRED

Each missionary must have a PASSPORT that is valid for at least 6 months after the departure date to Kenya. U.S. passports are obtained from any US. Post Office that houses an U.S. Customs office. The process will take 4-6 weeks to receive your passport. Follow the instructions explicitly and expeditiously. On the application indicate exactly how your name will appear on your passport. If you already have a passport, make sure it will still be current until at least 6 months after our departure date. Kenya requires a VISA for entrance into the country. You are responsible for securing your own visa. A Kenya visa may be obtained at the Nairobi airport terminal for \$50 dollars in new crisp U.S. currency.

IMMUNIZATIONS

There are recommended immunizations for travel to Kenya. **CONTACT YOUR PERSONAL PHYSICIAN OR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AGENT FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT IMMUNIZATIONS.**

Important immunizations include Hepatitis's A & B, Tetanus, Yellow Fever, Typhoid, and Polio. Always keep your Yellow Fever certificate with your passport. Malaria is a big problem in Africa, and oral medication is needed to guard against it. Your physician can make recommendations appropriate for malaria in Kenya. Team members are expected to provide their own immunizations and medicines. Persons with hypertension should contact their personal physician regarding precautions against malaria.

AIRLINE TICKETS/INSURANCE

The team travel coordinator will arrange travel from Houston to and from Kenya for the entire mission team. Travel insurance is included, except for cancellation. Note – everyone is responsible for his/her travel arrangements to and from the Houston airport.

FOOD

The Kenya nation and its foods are very different from what many of us are accustomed. The local foods will be different from our American foods. Every effort is made by our host congregation leadership to ensure that our food will be nutritious and safe for us to eat. Kenyans will provide breakfast and the evening meal. However, some team members have found it difficult to eat some native foods. Each team member will need to provide his/her own lunch/snack that is eaten at the clinic. Some have found it best to purchase portable food either at home or in Nairobi for consumption away from Nairobi. **DO NOT** drink any water or brush your teeth with water from a faucet or water tap. **ALL MEMBERS SHOULD EXPECT TO BUY BOTTLED WATER IN NAIROBI.** Please be aware that **WHILE IN KENYA, CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL IS PROHIBITED.**

LUGGAGE AND CLOTHING

Clothing for the mission must be chosen carefully. Please pack lightly. Every effort will be made to allow you to check one suitcase. Each individual should place sharp objects, large bottle liquids, personal medicines or other small personal items that are not allowed on the plane in their personal checked bag. In addition to your checked suitcase, you are responsible for one equipment footlocker as your second checked piece of luggage. A backpack or small bag may also be utilized as a carry-on bag. Kenya is located on the equator and except along the coast, enjoys very moderate temperatures due to its high altitude over most of its territory. A jacket may be desired in the mornings and evenings. Team members while working at the clinics wear **MEDICAL SCRUB TOPS. LONG PANTS FOR MEN AND LONG SKIRTS OR DRESSES FOR WOMEN ARE REQUIRED.** **DO NOT BRING SHORTS.** Long pants for everyone are fine for relaxing in the evening. A raincoat or poncho is recommended and as it is often muddy, an extra pair of shoes or rubber boots is also recommended.

MONEY

You are advised to bring at least \$200 in new \$100 dollar bills per person. These bills must be nearly perfect, without folds or marks with a date of 2003 or newer. It is best to convert the U.S. dollars to Kenya shillings at the Nairobi airport. Your team leaders will advise you about where best to do this conversion. Visa or MasterCard are acceptable in Nairobi and the large cities. There are ATM outlets in Nairobi. It is advisable to apply to obtain your U.S. cash at least two to three weeks before the departure date, as most banks do not keep perfect bills on hand for immediate purchase.

TRAINING AND ORIENTATION DATES

The orientation and training sessions at Trinity will be scheduled about a month before the mission with lunch included. The training is mandatory. The commissioning at Trinity is usually the Sunday before departure. It will be announced at the time of training.

SECURITY

While in Nairobi, the LCMS staff is our host. Every effort will be made to ensure our safety. Outside of Nairobi, the ELCK pastors and congregations are our hosts. They live in the areas we will be visiting while we are in Kenya, and they will make every effort to ensure that the group is safe at all times. There will be guidelines that everyone will be expected to follow. The accommodations will be different from what most are accustomed, but are safe and clean. Meals will be taken either in our accommodations or at restaurants known by our hosts.

RECOLLECTIONS

Our best recommendation is to take a small camera. Discretion is crucial when taking photos of Kenyans. It is polite to ask permission of those involved. A daily journal is also recommended for your personal memories.

PLEASE REMEMBER

*We go to learn and to serve with a spirit of humility, trusting in God to lead us and knowing He will equip us.

*It is best if people see us for who we are rather than what we do.

*People should feel empowered when we leave.