

## **Uganda Trip Interest Meeting (Updated 2-19-21)**

*Who can go?* Any church member 18 years or older may participate. Believers from another Bible-believing church may participate with a recommendation from a church member. Participants are expected to demonstrate spiritual maturity and be able or willing to share their faith. Evangelism training will be required and provided for all who go on this trip.

*What will we be doing?* We will be ministering to rural villagers under the leadership of Pastor Kenny Lule. He is a native Ugandan, a medical doctor, evangelist, and church planting pastor. We will do a variety of missions work (pastor's conference, children's camp, young women's conference, medical mission, etc.) depending on who goes and their gifts or skills. (Example: If we bring doctors/nurses, then we definitely do a medical mission.) We will work primarily with the village children connected to Kenny's school and their families. Due to the altered Ugandan school schedule (Covid-19), the new school year will be in session. All ministry events will have evangelism as the primary goal. The gospel will be preached or shared personally during events.

*Where will we be ministering?* Esubbi village is in eastern Uganda. It is an hour and a half west of Kampala, the capital city of Uganda located on Lake Victoria. We will stay in a Western-style hotel in Mityana, the largest town near the village. Breakfast in the cafeteria is included with lodging. Hotel sack lunches will be taken to the village. We will eat dinner in the hotel cafeteria. We will eat two meals with the villagers, one being a ceremonial meal with children dancing traditional dances. We will travel to Kampala/Entebbe one day to eat Western food, shop for souvenirs, and continue on to participate in a boat tour of the Nile or to go on a safari at one of their national parks. (We will leave at 7 am so as to miss the afternoon rush hour.)

*When will we go?* Friday July 23-Sunday August 1. This includes travel time (via Europe & Amsterdam) and 6 days/nights on the ground. We will worship with the villagers on Sunday.

*How much will it cost?* Your cost of participation will cover such items as a round-trip airline ticket (\$1000-1500; I hope to pay around \$1100), overnight stay in Entebbe, Enro Hotel accommodations for the week, all meals, bottled waters to drink during the day, materials required for ministering, and transportation while in Uganda (cost variable depending on number going). **Trip cost if we travel to the Nile River is \$1600-2000. Trip cost if we go on an African Safari is \$1800-2200.** You will also need to bring several hundred dollars for out-of-pocket expenses such as: travel food, incidentals in Uganda, tips, souvenirs, and your passport stamp (a \$50 bill) upon arrival at Entebbe International Airport. **Please know that a \$200 non-refundable deposit to secure your spot will be required by April 4, and payment deadline for the remainder will be May 2.** There will be at least one fundraiser to help defray costs.

*Concerning Covid-19 restrictions.* We will not buy our tickets until we are confident that Ugandan restrictions and those in Europe will not keep us from being able to go or return.

### **Additional Items:**

- *Items So Important You Need to Act NOW:*
  - Make sure your passport is ready. Your passport's renewal date must not be within six months of our flight's dates or the airline will not allow you to fly out of country. Go ahead and renew it now if it is even close. Know that it can take 4-6 weeks to renew.
  - See your doctor soon. You will need to get recommended vaccinations for those visiting Uganda. The most important thing is that you schedule a Yellow Fever vaccination now because the shot is in limited supply. It is only being offered in Birmingham and Atlanta. I had to schedule my shot 2-3 months in advance at the Jefferson County Health Clinic. You will also need a prescription for something more powerful than your normal over-the-counter stomach medicine, such as Imodium.
  - Purchase a Uganda-specific plug converter, and a security (\$) pouch. The pouch is recommended since high exchange rates mean you will carry on your person large amounts of Ugandan paper money.
  - You must call your cell phone carrier prior to the trip and add to your phone an international data package or it will not work at all in Uganda unless you are near Wi-Fi. Have them also help you turn on data roaming on your phone.
- *The Weather in Uganda in July:* Uganda will be hot during the day (80 degrees), cooler at night (60-65 degrees), and 80% humidity. July is Uganda's driest month, so it shouldn't rain. But the airplane will be cool. Wear layers of clothes in flight, or you can bring a blanket or wrap. Amsterdam will be 70 degrees during the day and in the low 50s at night.
- *Cultural Considerations:*
  - Uganda is a very beautiful country. The Ugandan people are a friendly people.
  - Uganda is one of the most Westernized of African nations.
  - It is considered courteous to tip anyone who serves you, but only if you feel they deserve it. So be prepared.
  - Know that whatever is scheduled in Africa may not start or end on time. Be flexible.
  - The level of personal cleanliness in Uganda is not the same as in the West. Some people use deodorant. Most don't. Many natives don't wash their hands very much because they often do not have ready access to water. Also, Ugandan bathrooms may not have soap. So keep hand wipes or hand sanitizer on your person.
  - Ugandans belong to various tribes. Many tribes have their own Ugandan language dialect. Not all tribes have a history of getting along with other tribes.
  - It seems like everyone in Uganda is religious. Many will tell you they are Christians and have been "born again." Like in America, some are truly saved while others are not. Don't be afraid to dig deeper because they are generally very friendly and willing to talk about spiritual things.