

Ablaze! in Kenya
Spring Mission 2010
May 6-16, 2010

Thank you for answering God's call to join us. The following is important information meant to answer the most common questions regarding the *Ablaze!* In Kenya mission project.

Goals for the Spring Mission 2010:

1. Conduct eyeglass missions in ELCK (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya) congregations
2. Partner with the ELCK leadership to bring outreach missions to specific congregations in Kenya
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:

February 11, 2010 – Minimum \$500 non-refundable deposit by check payable to Salem Lutheran Church, submitted with your completed application.

March 18, 2010– Balance is due. 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 Project Kenya Congregation*, the basic cost of this mission is 3000. We recommend that this cost is split accordingly:

\$1500 from each participant (subject to additional charges by the airline for taxes, fuel, baggage up charges, etc.)

\$1500 from the Project Kenya Congregation* for each participant

If you are not a member of a Project Kenya Congregation, the cost of this mission is: \$3000 from each participant

*A Project Kenya 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 \$1500 from each participant pays for their air fare. Once a congregation has declared their intention to be permanently involved in the project, 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, May 6-7– travel days from Houston to Nairobi

Saturday, May 8– make final clinic preparations, recover from jet lag, worship, sightseeing and shopping in Nairobi

Sunday, May 9 – teams travel to clinic locations throughout Kenya

Monday-Friday, May 10-14 – conduct eyeglass clinic during the day, devotions and fellowship in the evening

Saturday, May 15 – travel back to Nairobi, rest, meet and share experiences with other team members, souvenir shopping

Saturday night and Sunday, Nov.21-22 – 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, etc. It is permissible for a mission team member to ask Cheryl Kroll to book their tickets with different return dates, providing:

- a. You assume responsibility for communicating exactly whose ticket(s) will differ from the groups' tickets
- b. You provide exact booking instructions (names, dates, etc.) by the booking deadline, March 18, 2010 – once notification is given to Cheryl Kroll, **no changes are allowable.**
- c. You assume complete financial responsibility for any difference in airfare, which will be due March 18, 2010, and the foot lockers assigned to you to reach Houston. Payment for foot locker charges is expected upon receipt of invoice from Salem Lutheran Church.

It is NOT permissible for any team member to leave the airport in London or Amsterdam on the way to Nairobi, even in cases where there is a substantial layover!

Passport and Visa Required

Each missionary must have a PASSPORT that is valid for at least 6 months after the departure date to Kenya, May 6, 2010. U. S. passports are obtained from any U. S. post office which houses a 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 via: 1) traveldocs.com, 2) lcms.org, or 3) at the Nairobi airport terminal for a \$50 dollar bill in new crisp U. S. currency. (The information packet you will receive includes

instructions for obtaining a visa from sources 1 and 2 above. Checks must accompany this visa application. Checks to lcms.com are to be made payable to LCMS World Mission). Please allow 3-4 weeks to obtain your visa.

What about airline tickets?

The team travel coordinator will arrange travel from Houston to and from Kenya for the entire mission team. Everyone is responsible for their travel arrangements to and from Houston.

Advice about Food and Clothing

Remember, 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. However, we have found that some team members have found it difficult to eat some native foods. They 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. You are advised to bring antiseptic hand lotion and to use it constantly while working in Kenya. You will need mosquito spray or lotion. Check the web for more information about these issues.

Clothing needed for the mission must be chosen carefully. You must pack lightly. Each team member will be allowed only one regulation size carry-on bag, and a purse or other SMALL personal bag. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CHECK A SUITCASE OR LARGE BAG. As part of the fee for the trip, two equipment trunks per mission member are your check-on bags. Each team will be allocated a trunk for members to place sharp objects, large bottle liquids, personal medicines or other small personal items that are not allowed on the plane. 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. Medical scrubs tops are worn by team members while working at the clinics. Long pants are recommended. Do not bring shorts. Longer skirts or dresses are permitted. A rain coat or poncho is recommended. It is often muddy, so an extra pair of shoes is recommended. Rubber boots are recommended and can be purchased on the first Saturday while shopping for personal food, sanitation and water supplies in Nairobi.

Money

You are advised to bring at least \$300 in new \$100 dollar bills per person. These bills must be 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 accepted in Nairobi and the large cities. There are ATM outlets in Nairobi. Be advised 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.

Orientation Date: To be determined

Will I be secure? 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.

How do I memorialize the experience? Our best recommendation is to take a small camera. Discretion is crucial when taking photos of Kenyans. A daily journal is recommended

Do I need any immunizations? YES. There are required immunizations for travel to Kenya. CONTACT YOUR PERSONAL PHYSICIAN OR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AGENT FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT IMMUNIZATIONS! Important immunizations include; hepatitis A and B, Tetanus, Yellow Fever, Malaria – Malaria is a big problem in Africa – team members are expected to provide their own immunizations and medicines. Persons with hypertension should contact their personal physician regarding precautions against malaria. For all other mission members, Malarone, is the preferred anti malaria drug for Kenya. This is important to only take this type.

How can I raise support money? If you desire to solicit support to pay for the trip or for the mission, a packet is available that includes:

1. a sample form letter on our letterhead explaining the trip and requesting donations
2. photos of previous mission

You can obtain these by calling Cheryl Kroll at 281.290.1212 or Email: ckroll@salem4u.com

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following team leaders:

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Director, *Ablaze!* In Kenya
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Ministry Team Coordinator
Church: 281.290.1206
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