

# **“You Can Make a Difference!”**

## **2010 Short Term Missionary Work Teams**

# **Monadnock Bible Conference Bridge Builders**

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*Today, three quarters of a billion people are chronically undernourished. Malnutrition is the underlying cause of 55% of deaths of children under five. Thirty-four thousand children die every day of hunger and preventable diseases (24 every minute). Industrialized countries include only 20% of the World population but consume 80% of the food resources. In comparison, in the United States, we spend between \$35 - \$50 billion every year on diets and related expenditures to reduce calorie intake. Many North Americans literally eat themselves to death.* (State of World Need, World Relief Corporation. Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, Third Edition, 1999 Institute of International Studies)

The Monadnock Bible Conference has been sponsoring short-term work teams to Haiti and the Dominican Republic to provide Christ centered ministry and physical relief to the poor since 1983. So far we have sponsored 126 teams with over 2,800 team members. Work projects over the years have included churches, schools, hospitals, clinics and orphanages. The teams also have opportunity to visit mission and relief projects and minister to the Haitian people by personal testimony, preaching, music, children's programs, and drama depending on the team skills.

If you are at least 14 years of age, we invite you to submit an application to join one of our short-term missionary teams. All teams cost \$1,350 (out of Boston – subject to airfare group pricing availability). This pricing includes an orientation program, airfare, meals, lodging, and a contribution toward the materials for the project. All current work teams are scheduled to go to Haiti. We will normally fly on American Airlines from Boston to Miami and then to Port au Prince and will return on the same route. Your cost would vary for departures from other cities. To qualify for group rates, we need a minimum of 10 seats departing on the same flight. The airlines require a nonrefundable deposit to reserve a seat. Because we need to reserve a block of seats on the same flight, we need to commit to seats well in advance.

Churches or individuals may book a team date by submitting applications with a \$250 nonrefundable deposit per person directly to MBC. **All fees must be paid by the due date and all fees are nonrefundable (as they are spent on nonrefundable tickets and expenses as soon as they are received).**

Prior to team departure, we conduct an orientation. **Orientation is required for all team members including those who have been on trips with us before.** In addition to orienting new members, the purpose of an orientation meeting is to provide an opportunity for team members to meet each other, receive updates or changes, and to pray.

## **Questions and Answers:**

### **1. What about the political situation? Is it safe?**

In the event that Haiti's political situation raises cause for concern, our decision to go will be based on advice from our hosts, other missionaries in the country and the U.S. State Department. We will do our best to ensure your safety and the proper completion of our trip and objectives.

### **2. What is a typical daily schedule?**

We normally rise early, eat breakfast, get to work and get through our task in late afternoon. A typical schedule would be:

6:00 Wake up – Personal Devotions

7:00 Breakfast

8:00 Arrive at the worksite for group prayer

12:00 Lunch at the worksite

4:30 Return to home base and clean up for evening meal

6:00 Evening Meal

7:00 Group worship & sharing

### **3. Do I need special qualifications?**

Yes. You will need a willingness to work to the best of your ability, and to be a positive contributing part of a team. We also need your commitment to cooperate and follow the direction of the team leadership.

### **4. If I have a physical handicap, would I be permitted to go?**

Yes, as long as you are willing to work at things you can do and your doctor provides you with clearance.

### **5. What are the work expectations?**

This is a work team, and the projects are work projects. We have taken many people well into retirement and make every attempt to match a person's work assignment with their physical capability.

6. **What are the conduct expectations?**

Team members are expected to be flexible and patient and give complete cooperation with team leaders. A team member should maintain a spirit of unity and harmony within the group. Because our work is centered around the poor, there is an expectation that there will be a quiet, merciful gentleness at all times. All behavior and conversation should be Christ-like and should represent the team well.

7. **Is there a dress code?**

In Haiti, ladies are expected to wear a top with sleeves for church. Skirts or dresses need to reach the knee. We ask that ladies do not wear sleeveless shirts, tank tops, halter tops, or short shorts. Modest shorts (knee length) are acceptable. For guys, ear rings and or other body piercing are considered culturally unacceptable.

8. **Are passports required?**

Passports are required! If you forget your passport, you will not be able to go on the trip. Contact your local post office for an application. They will request two passport photos and proof of citizenship. You should apply for your passport as soon as you apply for the trip.

**All passports must be valid for 6 months from your return date.**

9. **Is insurance required?**

If you do not have insurance and would like to, you may secure a short term policy from your local insurance agent. Monadnock may secure coverage that may be considered primary in some circumstances. A team member should have medical insurance to secure comprehensive coverage.

10. **Are shots required?**

Yes. You will need to be current for tetanus. Based on the information from the medical doctors at our travel clinic, you should have protection for malaria, typhoid, hepatitis A, and a polio booster. Please see your doctor well in advance of your departure date.

11. **What about luggage?**

You are allowed two 50 lb. bags. **THEY CANNOT EXCEED 50 LBS.** You can also take one small carry-on that must fit under your seat (23 inches long by 13 x 9 wide). Monadnock Bible Conference will pack one 50lb. duffle bag for you with needed supplies. Tag your luggage clearly. Cardboard boxes are not permitted.

12. **How can I afford to go?**

This is a really good question to ask yourself before you sign up for the trip. If you feel the Lord would have you go, pray, and use your own resources first. Then contact your church, Sunday school, youth group, friends and relatives to see if they would assist you financially for this missionary project. For “first timers”, the MBC Bridge Builders will supply (if requested) 20 copies of a support letter

explaining the trip. *It will be your responsibility to know and keep track of the due dates of all fees due. All fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable. You will need to have a plan for full payment by the due date before submitting the application – even if you are attempting to generate support from others.*

**13. Why is the money nonrefundable and nontransferable?**

MBC Bridge Builders does not have a cash reserve from which we can draw to loan you money. To hold “blocks” of tickets on the airlines, we are required to make initial deposits that carry penalties if cancelled. When we book tickets, they are nonrefundable tickets. That means, we cannot get your money back from the airlines. We will not book a ticket for you without your full payment. The remainder of the fees must be forwarded to our contacts in Haiti well in advance. It takes approximately 30 –45 days to cash checks, purchase and deliver supplies, food and water for the team. Part of being a team member means taking responsibility for your own financial requirements. Failure to meet the obligations will hurt the team.

**14. What do I do next?**

- Read this material and pray for the Lord’s guidance.
- Discuss this with your parents, family or pastor.
- Consider the financial commitment necessary before making your decision.
- Fill out the application and your parent’s permission form if you are under 18.
- Complete the medical form.
- Fill out part of the reference forms and give them to the reference providers with an addressed, stamped envelope.
- You will be notified of your acceptance and receive a team manual.
- Request support letters if needed.
- Get a passport if needed.
- Arrange for medical needs
- Attend the orientation meeting.
- Plan your packing.

**15. What do I need to bring? (Sheets and pillows will be provided. If you would like to bring your own and donate them – great!) Here are some suggestions:**

- Shower Clogs
- Work clothes - Work Gloves - Hat
- Church clothing
- Laundry bag/laundry detergent
- Personal items
- Flashlight & extra batteries
- Back pack
- Comfortable shoes for work and for trips

- Bible & journal or notebook
- Spending money
- Water Bottle
- Ear plugs
- Bug repellent
- Sun screen
- Snacks if desired
- Camera and film
- Prescriptions in original bottles
- A copy of your passport
- A copy of the items listed in your check-in bag.