



Holy Spirit Mission Uganda

July 22-August 5, 2012

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1. Introduction

This is a *multi-generational mission trip* hosted and planned by Holy Spirit Episcopal Church. The primary reason that we are taking this trip is to grow in our relationship to Jesus Christ, and hopefully to help our Sister Church in Uganda grow in their relationship with Christ as well. Since we experience Jesus Christ primarily through our relationship with others, we believe that coming to know and serve our brothers and sisters in Ssinda Village, Uganda, will help us accomplish our mission. This trip will have three parts: Service, pilgrimage, and sightseeing.

Service

Our primary mission is to serve our brothers and sisters at our Sister Church. We will be working in the village of Ssinda, where our Sister Church is located. Some of us will be assisting in construction of the church, others will help out in school to teacher Pre-K or primary school, 1st through 7th grade. There will also be opportunities to work at a local clinic.

Pilgrimage

The Episcopal Church is shrinking in our part of the world, but in other parts of the world, it is rapidly growing. Uganda is one of these places. This trip is an opportunity to visit a place where the Holy Spirit is moving and working in ways that we have not seen in our corner of the world. We will have the opportunity learn about the Anglican church and Christianity in general in Uganda by visiting churches and cathedrals in Kampala,

shrines and tombs of Christian martyrs, and meeting local Anglican leaders including Bishops, priests, and church leaders.

Sightseeing

The travel guide Lonely Planet rated Uganda in the top ten countries to visit in 2012: “After all, this is the source of the river Nile – that mythical place explorers sought since Roman times. It’s also where savannah meets the vast lakes of East Africa, and where snow-capped mountains bear down on sprawling jungles. Not so long ago, the tyrannical dictator and ‘Last King of Scotland’ Idi Amin helped hunt Uganda’s big game to the brink of extinction, but today the wildlife is returning with a vengeance. This year Uganda also celebrates the 50th anniversary of its independence.” During the last leg of our trip we will have the opportunity to visit and relax at the source of the Nile and take a scenic overnight trip to Murchison Falls Park.

2. Uganda Background Info – Fast Facts

Climate: tropical; generally rainy with two dry seasons (December to February, June to August); semiarid in northeast.

Geography: landlocked; fertile, well-watered country with many lakes and rivers. The source of the Nile is located in Uganda.

Agricultural products: coffee, tea, cotton, tobacco, cassava (tapioca), potatoes, corn, millet, pulses, cut flowers; beef, goat meat, milk, poultry

Monetary unit: One U.S. dollar = 2365.0000 Ugandan shillings

History:

1500 - Bitu dynasties of Buganda, Bunyoro and Ankole founded by Nilotic-speaking immigrants from present-day southeastern Sudan.

Kampala, the capital, is spread over a series of hills

1840s - Muslim traders from the Indian Ocean coast exchange firearms, cloth and beads for the ivory and slaves of Buganda.

1875 - Bugandan King Mutesa I allows Christian missionaries to enter his realm.

1894 - Uganda becomes a British protectorate.

1962 - Uganda becomes independent with Milton Obote as prime minister and with Buganda enjoying considerable autonomy.

1971 - Milton Obote toppled in coup led by Idi Amin.

1976 - Idi Amin declares himself president for life and claims parts of Kenya.

1979 - Tanzania invades Uganda, unifying the various anti-Amin forces under the Uganda National Liberation Front and forcing Amin to flee the country; Yusufu Lule installed as president, but is quickly replaced by Godfrey Binaisa.

1980 - Binaisa overthrown by the army.

Milton Obote becomes president after elections.

1985 - Obote deposed in military coup and is replaced by Tito Okello.

1986 - National Resistance Army rebels take Kampala and install Yoweri Museveni as president.

2002 March - Sudan, Uganda sign agreement aimed at containing Ugandan rebel group, Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), active along common border. LRA wants to run Uganda along lines of biblical Ten Commandments. Led by "prophet" Joseph Kony they have kidnapped thousands of children and displaced many civilians.

2006 26 August - The government and the LRA sign a truce aimed at ending their long-running conflict. A ceasefire comes into force on 29 August. Subsequent peace talks are marred by regular walk-outs.

2007 August - Uganda and DR Congo agree to try defuse a border dispute.

2007 September - State of emergency imposed after severe floods cause widespread devastation.

2011 February - Museveni wins his fourth presidential election. Challenger Kizza Besigye alleges vote-rigging and dismisses the result as a sham.

Language: English is the official national language, taught in grade schools, used in courts of law and by most newspapers and some radio broadcasts. Ganda or Luganda (most widely used of the Niger-Congo languages, preferred for native language publications in the capital and may be taught in school), other Niger-Congo languages, Nilo-Saharan languages, Swahili, Arabic

Health: 10th worst rate of AIDS in the world. Affects 6.5% of the population

Life expectancy: 53.24 years (compare to US: 78 years)

Religion: Roman Catholic 41.9%, Protestant 42% (Anglican 35.9%, Pentecostal 4.6%, Seventh-Day Adventist 1.5%), Muslim 12.1%, other 3.1%, none 0.9% (2002 census)

Education: Students spend an average of 11 years in school, and the literacy rate is 66.8%

Population growth: 50% of the population is under 15 years old. Uganda is the third fastest growing country in the world

Sources: Wikipedia, US Department of State, BBC

3. Tentative Itinerary

July 22, 2012: Travel Day: Houston - Amsterdam 405pm - 820am next day

July 23, 2012 Travel Day: Amsterdam - Entebbe 1100am - arrive in Entebbe, drive to Kampala

July 24 2012: Pilgrimage Day 1: Exploring Christianity in Uganda (recover from jetlag)

July 25 2012 Pilgrimage Day 2: Exploring Christianity in Uganda

July 26 2012 Mission Day 1 – Ssinda Village

July 27 Mission Day 2

July 28 Mission Day 3

July 29 Mission Day 4

July 30 Mission Day 5

July 31 Sightseeing Day 1: Visit Jinja, source of the Nile and spend the day at the river
Aug 1 Sightseeing Day 2: Murchison Falls Park - overnight trip
Aug 2 Sightseeing Day 3 Murchison Falls Park
Aug 3 Commission Sister Church in Ssinda Village
Aug 4 Travel Day: Leave Entebbe 1130pm - 650am next day
Aug 5 Travel Day: Amsterdam - Houston 1045am - 155pm

4. Safety and Medical Concerns

We will be taking every possible precaution to ensure the safety of our group throughout this trip. We understand that violence and crime is a serious concern when traveling in this region, but through careful planning and common sense these risks can be minimized.

Much of the terrorism and violence in Uganda that you hear in the news occurs in the Northern and Eastern regions of the country, where the notorious Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is based. However, there has been no LRA activity in Uganda since 2006. There is also a historical conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which borders Uganda to the southwest. On our trip we will be avoiding all of these hotspots. We will be primarily spending our time in the cities of Kampala and Jinja, and doing our mission work in the rural town of Ssinda, which is located fairly close to Jinja (see map). These rural areas are relatively stable and unaffected by terrorist activities. In 2009 there were violent political riots in Kampala, and demonstrations in Ugandan cities do occur from time to time. We will do all we can to stay aware of our surroundings and follow media coverage of local events to avoid being caught up in large crowds.



Petty crimes such as pick pocketing, purse snatching, and thefts from hotels and parked vehicles or vehicles stalled in traffic jams do occur. There are simple commonsense strategies that we will use while travelling to avoid these crimes, like not wearing jewelry, carrying valuables or large amounts of money, and keeping car doors and windows shut and locked. Armed robberies of pedestrians and vehicles can also occur,

but victims are injured generally only if they resist. We will travel only in the daytime and avoid walking or driving at night. We will also avoid public transportation and will hire our own drivers, which will assist us in avoiding crime.

While we certainly do not anticipate any medical emergencies, it is important to note that medical facilities in Uganda, including Kampala, are limited and not equipped to handle most emergencies. Outside Kampala, hospitals are scarce and offer only basic services. Medical emergencies involving foreign nationals generally require immediate evacuation from Uganda. Travelers should carry their own supplies of prescription drugs and preventive medicines. We will bring a first aid kit and have a list of emergency medical centers should a situation arise. We will also be registering with the U.S. Embassy, which can assist citizens in serious medical emergencies.

A number of immunizations will be required for this trip, and you will need to visit your doctor to schedule the following immunizations: Hep A, Hep B, typhoid, rabies, tetanus, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella, Two doses recommended for all travelers born after 1956, if not previously given), and polio (One-time booster recommended for any adult traveler who completed the childhood series but never had polio vaccine as an adult). In addition, malaria is prevalent in Uganda and your doctor should prescribe you an antimalarial drug. Generally you begin taking the prescription a few weeks before the trip starts. There are also precautions we will take during the trip to avoid exposure to mosquitoes infected with malaria, like using mosquito nets, insect repellent with DEET, and wearing protective clothing.

Good food and water safety practices will be very important to avoiding infectious diseases. We will be working to ensure that our food providers use good practices, but there are some general precautions that we can use to avoid contamination. As a rule, we will treat all local water as contaminated. It is very important to only drink bottled purified water, even when brushing teeth, and avoid ice. In general we will be avoiding raw fruits and vegetables, salads, and milk products.

5. Trip Costs and Details

Deadline to register: April 1, 2012

First deposit: April 1, 2012 \$500

Second deposit: May 1, 2012 \$1,500

Final deposit: June 1, 2012 \$1,165*

Trip Cost: Total: \$3,165.00

\$2315.00 - airfare

\$500.00 – accommodation and food

300.00 - transportation

\$50.00 – Visa

*depends on group fundraising efforts and how much you fundraise as an individual

6. Trip preparation

This trip will require significant effort and preparation on your part. Registering for this trip is a commitment: to being a member of a team, to being flexible, to trusting your trip leaders, to being willing to be open to new experiences and people, to raising the money needed to go. We will be meeting once a month beginning in April 2012 to discuss mission trip details, and to prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits for this life-changing experience.

In the months prior to the trip, you will need to do the following things in a timely manner:

- Make sure you have a valid passport
- Schedule an appointment with your doctor get all the required immunizations and prescriptions
- Fundraise (we will be providing fundraising resources and brainstorming as a team)
- Commit to being at our mission trip team meetings



Holy Spirit
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

UGANDA MISSION TRIP REGISTRATION FORM 2012

It is necessary that we gather the following information so we have your current information for our records.
Please use a black pen and print legibly.

Full Name: _____ Goes by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Tee Shirt Size (adult): S M L XL _____ Gender: F M

Date of Birth: _____ Home Church: _____

Youth only:

Name of School: _____

Year of High School Graduation: _____

Father's Name & Email: _____

Father's Home #: _____ Cell #: _____ Work #: _____

Mother's Name & Email: _____

Mother's Home #: _____ Cell #: _____ Work #: _____

\$500 deposit required to hold your spot!

Please return form and payment to Sarah Taylor, 12535 Perthshire Rd. Houston,
Texas. 77024