

Swaziland 2014 Trip

Interest Meeting

OVERVIEW OF SWAZILAND

POPULATION: 1.1 Million

This small country in Africa has the highest rate of HIV/AIDS in the world, giving it the name, "Nation of Orphans". Generations of people in this country have been decimated by AIDS leaving many children orphaned and alone, without anyone to call mom or dad. The average person in Swaziland only lives to be about 46 years old.

Because there are virtually no orphanages in Swaziland, these children are literally left to fend for themselves without any means of survival. Widely held myths and misunderstandings about AIDS have left many girls vulnerable to sexual abuse and infection of HIV. Young children throughout Swazi are often found to be the head of the household, caring for all their younger siblings and other children who have no one. Orphans are left susceptible to malnutrition, disease, and abuse. Due to this harsh reality HopeChest has created a place for orphans to find refuge, a place to be loved and fed - a CarePoint. (From hopechest.org)

SWAZILAND FACTS

- Estimated number of people all ages living with HIV (2009): 170,000-200,000
 - Orphans (all causes): 150,000
 - Orphans (by AIDS): 69,000
 - Life expectancy at birth: 46 years
 - Estimated adult HIV prevalence rate: 25.9%
- (Data provided by UNICEF)

THE HOPECHEST SOLUTION

In Swaziland, HopeChest partners with another organization, Adventures in Missions. Both organizations collaborate daily with local Swazi pastors to ensure that the orphan's medical, physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual needs are met. Pastors in Swaziland oversee many of our ground programs and are the fire behind development. HopeChest highly values these relationships with local leaders.

Through community sponsorship: kitchens, daily feeding, weekly discipleship programming, wells, school buildings, community centers, and garden projects are possible. Overtime, CarePoints in Swaziland will grow to be self-sustaining, enhancing the lives of both the children and the community.

The most important part of our work in Swaziland is through our Discipleship Program. We have hired local believers, to mentor, build relationships, and most importantly to look after the spiritual wellbeing of the children. They do this through weekly bible studies, and counseling sessions with all of the children involved at our CarePoints. HopeChest is currently serving over 4,000 children through nineteen CarePoints in Swaziland. (From hopechest.org)

TRIP PURPOSE

To show love and care to the CarePoint. We spend time with the children as well as with the D-team, Bomaki, and AIM Staff. We will create and run a "VBS" program with a Fun Day for the children of the CarePoint. This year, we are seeking to partner with MC3 church to provide classes, partner in a prayer night, and help in any other needed areas. Each year this trip helps to grow and strengthen our partnership with the ministry happening there.

TRIP DATES

March 8-18 – Tentative Dates. The return date may shift back for an arrival on March 19. We plan to lock in dates by mid December based on airfare and the final number of trip participants. This is an example itinerary of the trip.

March 8: Depart from USA

March 9: Layover in Europe

March 10: Arrive in South Africa, Travel to Swaziland, Field Training

March 11-15: Ministry at CarePoint and with MC3 church

March 16: Attend MC3 church, shop at the market

March 17: Game drive, Travel to South Africa, Depart

March 18: Arrive in USA

TRIP COST

Trip cost: \$3,200 - \$3,850. The maximum cost for this trip is to be expected and requires a minimum of 8 participants. Trip cost will decrease with more participants and we are doing everything to keep the cost of the trip as low as possible. Here is a general breakdown:

- \$1,350 - Airfare
- \$1,820 – HopeChest (Food, lodging, transportation, ground fees, etc)
- \$680 – Team Expenses (Program costs, Care Point gifts, travel costs)

TEAM MEMBER DESCRIPTION

Here are some of the things that we looking for in team members:

- Members who are sensitive to God's working among the nations and excited to partner in the work of bringing gospel to another culture.
- Members moving towards being fully devoted followers of Christ.
- Members willing to prayerfully consider and weigh God's calling to this ministry.
- Members who are willing to be learners and follow team and field leadership

TEAM MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

For us to have a successful trip and team dynamics, these are the expectations of all team members:

- Participate in all team-training meetings.
- Complete required reading and team projects.
- Ability to raise support or personally pay for the individual cost of this trip.
- Passport valid for travel (Need by travel dates)

TRAINING MEETINGS

We will meet for the purpose of team, trip and personal preparation.

- December 16, 7:00-8:30pm
- January 13, 7:00-8:30pm
- February 3, 7:00-8:30pm
- February 24, 7:00-8:30pm

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Fill out the application at this link by December 9:

<https://saalemchapel.wufoo.com/forms/swaziland-2014-application/>

2. Complete a brief personal interview.

3. Submit trip deposit of \$250 by December 15.