

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION – 2012

Proposed dates – We can combine any 10 days in January; this is just a suggestion 12th through 22nd.

This mission team would be a general team. By that I mean that we will do a little of everything. The official language in Senegal is French so if we have any French speakers with us that would be very helpful, if not, translators will be easy to find.

I think it is important for everyone to know a little about Senegal and hopefully this will help you make a decision as to whether or not you want to join the team. Senegal is located on the most western part of Africa and is the size of South Dakota. Today the population is approximately 12 million, a young country where half the population is under 20. A secular state with 96% being Muslim, 2% Catholic and 1% protestant, Senegal is a Republic with a National Assembly and a Senate.

Known for its dynamic culture, friendly people, warm climate and its nickname “Africa for Beginners”, Senegal has become one of the most sought-after destinations in Africa. It is ideally located less than 6 ½ hours from New York and offers everything that makes Africa unique in a safe, friendly and comfortable environment. Like all places you must exert a certain amount of caution, go out in two’s, don’t expose your money in public and also hold your purse tightly or don’t carry a purse.

Americans are perceived to have lots of money, in Senegal you bargain for almost everything but if you go into the supermarket (grocery store) prices are fixed. The market is where you bargain and also local boutiques where they are selling fabrics, clothing items, jewelry, souvenirs etc. For those not familiar with bargaining once you go high you cannot lower your price you can only go higher. Because of that, once they give you an amount you should at least cut that amount in half or lower, then slowly go up. If you don’t really want something, never ask the price, you will be sorry you did. There is something for everyone, gold (18k), silver, but not sterling, must be cleaned and all types of beads. There are drums, and you can purchase them if that is your thing, airlines know how to ship them without damage.

So far the cheapest air ticket is approximately **\$1,600**. The idea is that every participant would bring 2 suitcases and one carry-on. One large suitcase is for the team and the other is for you. The little one is also for you. International travel allows 2 – 50 lb suitcases and one carry-on, so we must be very careful as we pack the suitcases. Each participant will be asked to collect medicines from their churches. We can bring pain killers (Tylenol and Ibuprofen), multi-vitamins (children and adults), calcium, fungal creams, and first aid creams like Neosporin. We will also ask the medical team leader in Senegal what other medicines are needed. Each participant will also be asked to raise **\$300** for the mission. We can also request donations from churches for T-Shirts. Those T-shirts will be distributed at the Women’s Prison. We would need at least 130 plain white T-shirts. From the \$300 we raise we will also purchase packets of powdered milk to give to each prisoner. In Senegal a packet of milk will cost \$3-\$4, remember we need about 130

packs. We want each of you to get your church to participate with you in this project as much as possible.

I believe that if you work hard each day sweating in a village once you return to your place of rest it should be comfortable if possible and it is possible in Senegal. Snacks are cheaper in the US than in Senegal so if there is something special that you enjoy as a snack it is better to pack them. Soft drinks are available in Senegal, Coke Light for those who like diet, not so much Pepsi for you Pepsi lovers and no Root Beer or Dr Pepper that I know of. There are great coffees and teas but if you like artificial sweeteners you should bring that yourself.

The cost of meals, transportation and lodging for 10 days we are looking at **\$1,000.00**. That would cover Friday January 13th through Sunday January 22nd. The return flight would be on Monday morning around 3am. This would mean that we would go to the airport around midnight on Sunday night and we would arrive in the US around 6am or 7am on Monday morning and could be in Indianapolis as early as 11am the same day. Everyone would arrange for their own transportation to and from the airport in Indiana. Once we arrive in Senegal everything will be taken care of.

Air ticket	\$1,600.00
Meals, Lodging and Transportation in Senegal	\$1,000.00
Donation to the Advance	\$ 300.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
	\$3,000.00

Here are some possible activities for the team:

- 1) Upgrade and repair head quarters including painting, gardening etc.
- 2) “Revival” at the newly purchased land (put temporary fence around the area).
- 3) Wellness: Visit rural areas with mobile health teams.
- 4) Pastor training
- 5) Work with Prison Ministries – Women and Youth
- 6) Visit micro-credit groups

We will also visit Goree Island and the Bandia Game Reserve during our time in Senegal.

If you have questions please contact me by phone or email Karen Ujereh
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