

Thank you for your interest in the Liberia Medical Mission trip planned for October 2021! God has been bringing us many resources as we seek to follow His call to bring physical and spiritual healing, hope, and life to the people of Liberia. Enclosed you will find information pertaining to the country, trip details, the Bridges of Hope West Africa Mission Statement and Statement of Faith, and the general volunteer and medical volunteer applications. This is our first endeavor at taking a large medical group to Liberia and is a work in progress, so we appreciate your flexibility, and welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please reach out anytime with questions or comments.

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*Please see the application link on the website for the easiest way to apply. Or, you may print, complete, scan, and return to email above.

Bridges of Hope Mission Statement

Bridges of Hope exists to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and to disciple Liberians to worship and glorify God by empowering them to live Christ-centered lives and provide for themselves a reasonable living. We will do this through a Bible-teaching church, quality education, quality healthcare, entrepreneurship and agriculture; so that they will have a biblical worldview evidenced by a lifestyle of character, leadership, stewardship, service, and joyful worship.

Core Values

Leadership

- **Integrity** – But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain —and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Exodus 18:21
- **Service** – But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant. Matthew 20:26

Discipline

- **Responsibility** – Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load. Galatians 6:4-5
- **Respect** – Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. I Thessalonians 5:12-13

Faith

- **Courage** – Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6
- **Hope** – but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

Statement of Faith

The Bible

We believe the Bible, consisting of the sixty-six (66) books of the Old and New Testaments, is verbally inspired by God, written by human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit, is without error in the original manuscripts, and is the infallible and authoritative Word of God.

God

We believe there is only one living and true God who eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the same in essence, equal in power and glory, without division.

God the Father

We believe God the Father loves the world, gave Christ to be its Savior and is the Father of all who believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

God the Son (Jesus Christ)

We believe Jesus Christ is God incarnate, was conceived through the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He is truly God and truly man. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

God the Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is a person. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He is the divine agent of regeneration and applies salvation to all God's people. He indwells all genuine believers and baptizes them into the body of Christ.

The Human Condition

We believe that all people are born with a sinful nature, corrupt in every aspect of their being, sinful in thought, word and deed, and absolutely, irrevocably condemned to death. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

The Christian Life

We believe as followers of Christ we are called to follow the two greatest commandments; to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Satan

We believe in the existence of Satan who as a created fallen angel became the author of sin.

The Church and Its Ordinances

We believe the Lord Jesus is the head of the church. The church is the body of Jesus Christ and is a divinely established instrument for the worship of God, the growth of believers and evangelism of the lost. There are two ordinances in the church, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which are divinely enjoined upon all believers. They are without saving merit in themselves, but they provide an expression of faith regarding the believer's identification and fellowship with Christ.

The Mission of the Church

It is the mandate of all believers to make disciples of all nations. In response to Jesus' last command to His disciples, it is therefore a necessity, a responsibility and a desired privilege of all those who have received new life in Christ to take this message of reconciliation to all nations.

The Return of Christ, Resurrection, and Judgment

Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth at His appointed time (known only to God) and manner. The dead in Christ will be raised, and Christ will judge all people in righteousness.

The Message of Salvation

We believe salvation is not by works, but by God's free and special grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, our representative and substitute.

LIBERIA SHORT-TERM MEDICAL MISSION ITINERARY

The purpose of this application is to provide you with information about what you can expect, and to provide us with information so we can do our best to ensure your health and safety. Estimated costs payable to Bridges of Hope (tax-deductible) include airfare, [travel insurance](#), in-country lodging, fuel (generator and ground transportation), three meals per day, and laundry (provided by the local community). You are responsible for costs relative to required vaccinations, passport/VISA, and personal expenses (some food and souvenirs, etc.).

Projected Dates: October 7-23, 2021

Team Members: Potential for ten team members at Bensonville Bridges of Hope School, and separate surgical team at Phebe Hospital. Applications open for all areas and levels of practice; we are also open to taking non-medically trained team members to provide spiritual and other support, if room allows. We are also recruiting local community members to be available as support staff, translators, etc. We want to come alongside them to help them serve their community.

Estimated Cost: Estimated ~\$2,200 per person for travel and in-country expenses (see budget). This is our best estimate, and may increase somewhat as plane tickets increase over time, please plan to be flexible. Funds are payable to Bridges of Hope, and are tax-deductible. We do not have any fund-raising planned at this time, but you are welcome to raise your own support.

Vaccinations: Routine adult vaccinations, plus typhoid and yellow fever. **A yellow fever vaccination card within the last 10 years is required for admission into Liberia.** Yellow fever vaccine availability in the United States is currently limited. If you need to be vaccinated before your trip, you may need to travel some distance and schedule your appointment well in advance. [Find the clinic nearest you.](#) Please plan accordingly. All vaccinations must be complete and a copy provided no later than September 1, 2021. Also ask your travel clinic for malaria prophylaxis. We recommend you pack mosquito spray (50% DEET). To review risk for non-vaccine preventable diseases, please view the CDC Liberia travel page, and discuss any questions with your travel medicine provider.
<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/clinician/none/liberia#vaccines-and-medicines>

Language: Some English spoken; we hope to have local interpreters available. English spoken slowly by each party is best.

General Schedule:

- Flight out of Rapid City Thursday 10/7, arrive in Monrovia Friday evening 10/8. Ground transportation of the medical team to Bensonville (Bridges of Hope School, 2 hours drive from Monrovia) or Phebe Hospital (2 hr 45 min). Rest Saturday, on Sunday go to church, and set up clinic.
- Provide services Monday Oct 11 to Wednesday Oct 20.
- Thursday 10/21: Rest day/personal time.
- Friday 10/22: Travel to Monrovia for return flight Friday evening. Group prayer at land site (home of future medical clinic and church).

- Saturday evening 10/23: Arrive in the U.S.

Tentative Daily Schedule*:

- Breakfast at 07:00
- Morning devotion at 07:30 to 08:00
- AM Clinic 08:00
- Lunch 12:00-13:00
- PM Clinic: 13:00-dinner
- Dinner, debriefing, and bed

*electricity (AC plus fans) runs from approximately 19:00 to 07:00 on the generator

Weather: Very hot in October, 95% humidity

Luggage: Personal luggage will likely be limited to what you can carry on. We will be checking two totes per person containing our medications and supplies, as these are very limited for purchase in-country. We suggest three pairs of scrubs and a set of church clothes. We will have one tote for the team to share for personal equipment (stethoscope, snacks, etc).

Sleeping Accommodations:

- BOH Guest House: Three rooms with bunk beds; one room with queen bed. Fans in rooms, AC in the common room. Need to provide own linens and towel; suggest lightweight “sleep sack.”
- Phebe Hospital Housing: no AC, fans only

Electricity: Limited to generator 12 hours overnight for AC/fans

Communication with home: No wi-fi in Bensonville; some cell service, use Whatsapp; can be spotty. Wi-fi available in Gbarnga Bong County. Bensonville is seven hours ahead of Mountain Standard Time.

Personal Hygiene: No running water but water available for “cup bath”. Helpers at the house can wash your laundry when needed.

Drinking Water: Local well water is filtered; can buy bottled water, you are welcome to bring your own filter as well.

Meals: Three meals per day covered in trip expenses, paid to Bridges of Hope, which will employ the local community to prepare.

Laundry: Available periodically, as above for meals.

PPE/medical supplies: We will need to pack it in; some supplies may be available in-country, but likely limited.

General Timeline:

- Applications due: January 31
- Application review and candidate interviews: February
- Notification of acceptance and payment due: no later than February 28
- Cultural and Spiritual training: March and April

- Prayer/Fellowship: ongoing
- Passport and VISA: please obtain by end of July
- Yellow Fever vaccine/Malaria prophylaxis: Please provide documentation no later than September 1; you are encouraged to obtain this as soon as practical.
- October: Go serve!
- November: debrief, reflect, trip feedback

GENERAL VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Thank you for your volunteer interest in Bridges of Hope. We invite you to complete our initial application. An interview will be scheduled if we feel that our mission and values align. Your references will also be contacted.

SECTION I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Birthdate: _____ Married: _____

Email: _____

SECTION II. SPIRITUAL INFORMATION

Have you read Bridges of Hope Statement of Faith and Mission and Vision Statements (see pp. 4-6)?

Do you believe the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God? _____

Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God? _____

Are you committed to being transformed by God and His Living Word in your daily living?

Do you agree to be dedicated to “empowering Liberians to live Christ-centered lives”?

Are you an active member of a church? _____

Church _____ Denomination _____

Church Address

Church Email _____ Phone Number _____

SECTION III. EDUCATION

School Name	Location	Years Attended	Degree Received	Major

SECTION IV. BACKGROUND

How did you hear about Bridges of Hope?

Have you ever been dismissed from any volunteer position? If so, please explain.

SECTION V. REFERENCES

Please give three references who can testify of your Christian service and character. Please list your pastor first.

Name	Position	Address	Phone Number
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Please give two references who are qualified to speak of your professional experience and training.

Name	Position	Address	Phone Number

SECTION VI. APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION OF HONESTY AND AGREEMENT FOR DISCLOSURE

I understand that Hope International Christian Academy does not discriminate in its employment because of a person's race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, age, or disability.

I certify that the facts stated in this initial application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I completely understand that any false statements or withholding significant facts or information may preclude me from being selected as a volunteer. If already volunteering, I will be subject to immediate termination regardless of the amount of time that transpires before discovery.

I understand this is an initial application for volunteering and a position is not being offered at this time.

Medical Application

Please describe why you are interested in this Medical Mission:

Do you currently have a passport? _____

Expiration Date: _____

** Please note that your passport must be valid for six months after your return date. You will also need to obtain a VISA.*

Date of Yellow Fever Vaccination (required to enter Liberia): _____

Do you have any serious current health conditions that we should be aware of (asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, heart disease, etc).

Non-medical skills (outdoor adventure, mechanic, musician, construction, sports, etc.) Please be specific:

Are you willing to meet with the team at least once (in person or online) for training, team-building, prayer and fellowship?

I certify than I am in good physical condition that will allow me to work long days on my feet in heat and humidity:

Signature

Date

