

2023 LIBERIA SHORT TERM MEDICAL VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

www.bridgesofhopewestafrica.com

Greetings! The purpose of this application packet 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, safety, and productivity while on site. Estimated costs payable to Bridges of Hope (tax-deductible) include airfare, basic medical 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, regular travel insurance, and personal expenses (some food and souvenirs, etc.).

Dates: Leave the US on Thursday February 16, arrive in Monrovia Friday Feb 17; returning flight from Monrovia on Friday March 3, arrive in US Saturday March 4.

Team Members: Application is open for all areas and levels of medical practice, but non-medical applicants are welcome to apply as well, if room allows. The needs are great in Liberia, and anyone with a heart to go is welcome to come and exercise their gifts. We are also recruiting local community members to be available as medical and non-medical support staff, translators, etc. We want to come alongside them to help them serve their community and create self-sustainability over the long-term. We take a medical team, and also a surgical team, God willing.

Estimated Cost: \$1,200 per person for in-country fuel, food, lodging, laundry, travel medical insurance, plus air-fare (estimate \$1,300 - \$1,500). 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. Additional costs for vaccinations and personal travel is estimated at \$1,500, so please plan accordingly. **Trip fee for 2023 mission is due no later than Oct 15 so airline tickets can be purchased no later than Nov 1.**

Vaccinations: Routine adult vaccinations, plus typhoid (renew every two years) and yellow fever (good for life). **A yellow fever vaccination card 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. Cost estimate for this vaccination is around \$600. Also ask your travel clinic for malaria prophylaxis. We recommend you pack mosquito spray (50% DEET). Mosquito nets are provided for sleeping. 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>
COVID vaccination is only required if required for travel (Liberia currently requires for entry).

Language: English is the primary language but with a strong dialect; multiple tribal languages are also spoken. English spoken slowly by each party is best. Local community members can be recruited to assist in communication.

General Schedule:

- Flight out on a Thursday, arrive in Monrovia Friday evening. Ground transportation of the medical team to Bensonville (Bridges of Hope School, 2 hours drive from Monrovia). Clinic and pharmacy set-up on Saturday/Sunday. Church on Sunday on school grounds or in the community. **Surgical team** transportation to **Phebe Hospital**, 1.5 hour drive; screen patients on Saturday and set up supplies Sunday for surgeries to begin Monday.
- Attend church and rest/play day on Sunday Feb 19.
- Hope: Provide services for students and their families first, then open services to the surrounding community. **Phebe**: Surgical cases pre-screened by local physicians, U.S. team does final screen to determine patient eligibility and caseload.
- Return to Monrovia Thursday or Friday (TBD); possibility for vacation day prior to boarding return flight Friday evening.

Tentative Daily Schedule (Hope Village)

- Breakfast at 06:00
- Morning devotion at clinic site 06:30
- AM Clinic 07:00
- Lunch 12:00-13:00 (rotating)
- PM Clinic: 13:00-dinner
- Dinner, debriefing, and bed; electricity (AC plus fans) runs from approximately 19:00 to 07:00 on the generator
- **Phebe**: *Breakfast/devo, rounds, surgical schedule TBD; may be irregular depending on case load. No surgeries on Sundays. A US team leader will be on site.*

Weather: Dry season in the fall/winter but still rains; 95-100 degrees and 95% humidity. Liberia is ~500 miles north of the equator.

Luggage: Personal luggage limited to carry-on as we will need to take most of our supplies due to limited availability in-country. Please bring three pairs of scrubs for clinic duty, a set of church clothes, and a set of casual clothes. Dress is western, but modest please (no short skirts/shorts or spaghetti straps). For checked luggage containing our supplies, we suggest obtaining luggage from the thrift store, which we can leave in Liberia. Due to the number of bags we take with supplies, keeping track of one's personal luggage is very difficult.

Sleeping Accommodations:

Hope: There are now two guest homes, an older and a newer. We will likely accommodate the women in the newer guest house. There are six bunk beds available in the room with the AC unit, and another six bunk beds in three other rooms with fans. There is an AC unit in the common area that can help cool these bedrooms. There are two bathrooms available. In the older guest house there is one queen bed with AC; the other rooms have bunk beds with fans, and an AC unit in the common room. This house also has two bathrooms. Mosquito nets are provided for sleeping.

Phebe: *Shared rooms in one large guest house, fans only, no running water. Generator available but schedule may be irregular. A small personal battery-operated fan may be helpful.*

Personal Hygiene: No running water but (cold) water available for bucket bath. We are currently working on supplying the guest homes with an electric kettle to help warm bath water. Community helpers can wash your laundry (by hand).

Electricity: Limited to generator 12 hours overnight for AC/fans. Please bring an outlet adaptor to charge your phone.

Communication with home: No cell service at Hope Village; available in Monrovia. Use of WhatsApp messaging service among team members and family at home is recommended. Liberia is six to seven hours ahead depending on daylight savings time. Please discuss international service availability with your cell phone carrier.

Drinking Water: Bottled water is purchased for the team; there are also Sawyer filters on site. Hope school has three wells with water that is potable for the local community; travelers should only consume bottled or filtered water (including teeth brushing).

Meals: Three meals per day covered in trip expenses, paid to Bridges of Hope, which will employ the local community to prepare. Breakfast is often oatmeal or spaghetti with plantain and in-season fruit; hot water is available for instant coffee or tea. Lunch is prepared (saucy meat over rice), with leftovers for supper.

Personal Medications: Please bring all personal and OTC medications needed in your carry-on luggage; we suggest bringing more than just a two-weeks supply.

Gifts: Our helpers will be compensated; no cash gifts please. You are welcome to leave behind clothes and other items, but please discuss with your team leader. We strongly discourage giving out your personal phone number or mailing address.

Please review the following Bridges of Hope Mission and Vision Statement, then see application on page 7.

Bridges of Hope Mission and Vision 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.

Marriage and Sexuality

We submit to the Bible's authority as the Word of God as it speaks to human relationships, reserving human sexuality to be practiced only within the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman, as God's perfect design, for our highest good.

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 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.

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.

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SECTION I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Birth date: _____ Marital Status: _____

Email: _____

Passport # (required for travel medical insurance): _____ T-shirt size: _____

Medical Background (please include copy of license): _____

Last typhoid vaccination (required): _____

Last yellow fever vaccination (required): _____

Last COVID-19 vaccination (only if required by Liberian govt): _____

**You may email these records to trip coordinator once obtained, no later than Dec 1, 2022*

SECTION II. REFERENCES

Personal Reference:

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Professional Reference:

Name: _____

Position: _____

Employer: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Home Church: _____

Bridges of Hope West Africa Ministry Disclosure:

Please review the Bridges of Hope West Africa Mission and Faith Statements. We do not require a profession of Christian faith for volunteers, but we do please request that team members respect our organization’s Christian worldview, practice, and ministry. Feel free to reach out anytime with questions.

I certify that I am in good physical condition, and can support (not oppose) the Mission, Vision, and Statement of Faith of Bridges of Hope West Africa:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please scan completed application (this page only) and license to beekind75@protonmail.com