

Consideration Kit Uganda Mission Trip

Why Consider a Short-Term Mission Trip to Uganda

1. In God's grace Uganda is experiencing a mighty upsurge in conversions. The people of Uganda are hungry for God's Word. The need for all types of Christian workers is great.
2. The people of Uganda are friendly and easy to talk to. English is spoken and understood by a majority of the people. School books are typically in English. The government is open to evangelism and other Christian activities.
3. The people in general are quite poor by our standards. They are very generous with what they have. Their great physical needs provide a wonderful opportunity for demonstrating the love of Christ by helping meet some of those needs.
4. There are many opportunities for people with building skills.
5. There are many orphans. Ministering to the orphans is a task of endless opportunities.
6. Medical care is limited and often primitive by modern standards. Doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers can do much good even in a short period of time.
7. With the many new converts there is an overwhelming need for quality discipleship. There are significant ongoing efforts to train pastors and lay leaders.
8. The openness of the people of Uganda to the gospel and the large numbers of conversions produce new opportunities every day for Christian ministry.
9. The work done in the past decade has laid a firm foundation for today's short-term mission work. The need is great, the opportunities are great, the work is rewarding, and the process has been worked out in great detail and successfully implemented many times.
10. The Africa Christian Training Institute (ACTI) is the missions enabling ministry that grew out of Dr. Henry Krabbendam's involvement in Uganda since 1983. It was then that Dr. Krabbendam made a short-term trip to Uganda with the late Jack Miller and others. Idi Amin had been gone for just four years and raging civil war had three more years before it ended.

Dr. K (as he is affectionately called by students and friends) had been a pastor and college level Bible and theology professor for nearly twenty years. These years were very useful and productive. Many students who studied under him before 1983 credit his faithful teaching with significant impact on the lives. Yet, by his own testimony, it was that first trip to Uganda that changed his life, his ministry, and his approach to all he does.

Dr. K began to make return trips to Uganda and soon realized the need to take others with him. Soon a growing list of students from Covenant College, as well other schools, had made the trip to Uganda. None of them returned the same person.

By the late 1980s, Dr. K. began to recruit pastors to join him on these short-term trips. Many made a trip or two with Dr. K. and then began to form their own teams and soon ACTI came into

being so that all these teams were united in mission and purpose. Previously there had been an organization known as the Africa Christian Training and Service Trust (which Dr. K was part of) but its primary purpose was funding work within Uganda. Very few of its members had ever been to Uganda. Over time, it became clear that Dr. K and those who traveled with him were focused on ministry and not just funding and ACTST was dissolved and ACTI was born. All who serve on the ACTI Board of Directors have made numerous ministry trips to Uganda. The ministry is now a word and deed ministry that shares and lives the gospel in any venue in Uganda where there is an open door.

An average of seventy-five people per year make the trip to Uganda with ACTI. ACTI has a seasoned staff in Uganda to help facilitate ministry teams and we now have our own facility for teams arriving and leaving Uganda. We have a mission house, available vehicles, drivers, and a host of Ugandans who come along side us as helpers,

Today ACTI is made up of a group of team leaders who each have over a decade of experience in organizing and leading teams to Uganda. Thousands have been touched by this ministry and we have all learned that when you go to Uganda to minister to others, inevitably, you receive a greater blessing yourself.

All of the organizational structure and functions of the ACTI in the United States are done by volunteers which is another way ACTI demonstrates that its heart is in Uganda and not in supporting a big staff here in the states.

11. Will you join us?

The Next Step

1. Thank you for your interest in possibly becoming a part of a short-term missionary team for a trip to Uganda, East Africa. This packet provides materials to help in making your decision.
2. You have received this packet either because you have shown a direct interest or someone else thinks you should consider this. You are urged to give prayerful consideration to such a mission.
3. In the past, we have had some who look this over and then choose not to go to Uganda, but they were challenged and became part of a mission trip elsewhere, and for this we rejoice.
4. The items below are just for you information, if you wish to take the next step, we will be happy to provide you with the **Preparation Kit** and then the **Participation Kit**.

Additional items included are:

- a. *"The 'Facing Change' of Missions"*
- b. Frequently asked questions
- c. *"Are Short-Term Missions Worth The Cost?"* with *"How Ministry Costs Are Determined"* and *"ACTI Financial Accountability"*
- d. What will this trip cost?
- e. Tips to aid in raising funds (to give you an idea of what is involved)
- f. Preparation Time Line (Says 6 months but has been done in 1 month more than once)
- g. Basic Immunization recommendations
- h. Some typical short-term ministries in Uganda
- i. Some random photographs from previous teams
- j. An overview of Uganda with maps
- k. *"Five Reasons Not To Leave The Country"*
- l. Some thoughts on prayer
- m. Who Should Go?

The “Facing Change” of Missions

Rod Beidler, Director, U.S. International Missions Group (U.S. IMG)
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A recent article in *Christianity Today* bemoaned the brutal facts: the number of evangelical international missionaries from North America remains virtually unchanged from 1992. Over the same time, “short-term” missions has exploded exponentially, which used to translate predictably into “mid-term” and “long-term” missionaries. But since the late 1990s that has not happened.

When the U.S.IMG began in 1991 one could almost forecast the progress: 100 short-termers in 1992 would yield 25 mid-termers in 1994, and 10 -12 “career” missionaries by 1997 – an overall 10 -12% recruit rate. Today the rate is more like 2 - 3%.

What has happened to change the landscape of international missions? Three major factors come immediately to mind.

Our culture has changed. Young people today are more interested in holistic ministry than in purely spiritual ministry. They are far more motivated by immediate impact than long-term impact. If it won't make an immediate difference, they won't waste their time.

Missions has changed, but not nearly as quickly as our culture. The missions community, and the U.S. IMG, is offering more and more holistic opportunities to attract young missionaries. But it is a constantly shifting target.

God is doing something new—what I like to call “the new diaspora” – that is quickly moving us away from “institutional missions” toward a “missions movement.” The future of international missions lies in a new wave of holism: men and women joyfully leading integrated lives, embracing business as ministry—overseas! Call it “Business as Ministry,” “Kingdom Business,” “Kingdom Professionals.” Whatever you call it, it's happening. This is the future, and we don't need to organize it. We just need to fuel it!

The Kingdom continues to grow. The Gospel continues to advance. But God is doing it in a new way. Surprised? Our challenge is to figure out where God is at work—and go with him!

U.S. IMG www.usimg.org or the Navigators home site www.navigators.org/us