

Application For Mission Trip to KwaMhlanga, South Africa

**Depart Tampa Thursday September 23
Arrive Tampa Saturday October 2, 2010**

(Deadline to submit application is July 1, 2010)

I. Introductory Comments And Information

It is wonderful you have decided to apply to participate in a mission venture to help those in need in KwaMhlanga, South Africa. If we allow Him, God will use this entire process to bring us closer to Him, closer to one another, and closer to the orphans, the poor, and the sick that are served by this ministry. Be forewarned! Expect your life to be measurably impacted, and perhaps changed, by this trip.

Attached to this Application is information about the ministry in which we shall be involved, the facilities where we shall be staying, and logistical concerns – stuff like how to avoid man eating lions, the best way to pick out Tarzan & Jane from a crowd, etc. Should you have additional questions do not hesitate to email Paul Butler at butler.tampa@gmail.com or call him at (813) 495-4956. (If he doesn't have all the info you're looking for he'll obtain it for you or he'll fake it really well).

As you complete this Application please keep the following in mind:

- A. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of the trip is to serve people in need. You should feel free to add days onto either end of the mission trip for personal time. Many consider Capetown (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Town) to be the San Francisco of South Africa and of course there is the famous Kruger National Park (www.krugerpark.co.za). However, during the designated mission trip you should expect to be with the team full-time, engaged in acts of service. (But, being with the Team can be fun, too, especially if you bring that kind of expectation with you!)
- B. **APPLICATION PROCESS:** This is an “Application” to participate. The final decision of who will be going will be made by the Leadership Team of the HIV/AIDS Ministry at the St. James United Methodist Church in Tampa. The decision will be based on various factors. If you are asked not to participate, the message won't come by a crass email. It will be a touchy-feely friendly email. Just kidding about the email – but not about the need for discretion to be exercised regarding participants. Various factors come into play, such as the size of the group and matching transportation needs, the availability of sleeping space, age appropriateness, etc.

You must be at least 15 years of age at the time of travel. (That's so you can carry the luggage of those over 60 – just kidding about the luggage, sort of.)

- C. **COST:** This ministry has from the outset promised donors that 100% of their support goes to the ministry and none of it is used to pay for people to travel to South Africa. Participants are expected to cover their own expenses. Airfare is the biggest cost and can run around \$1200 to \$1800. (It is in your financial best interest to submit this application early, determine if you are going, and then book your flight! Typically, the better fares are obtained in advance – although that theory doesn't always hold up. At least by applying early you have some choices.) In addition to airfare is the cost of food and lodging for the time in KwaMhlanga and costs associated with the rental of a vehicle(s) and gas, plus the cost of a criminal background check. The exact amount depends on the final size of the Team and the number and size of vehicles needed, but you can project approximately \$ 450 - \$500 for these expenses. With this application you are asked to submit a deposit of \$100, payable to St. James United Methodist Church, marked "South Africa Trip Participant." Of this amount \$25 will be used to defray the cost of a criminal background check. (All United Methodist congregations in the State of Florida are required to run criminal background checks on those who work with children.)
- D. **AIRLINE RESERVATIONS:** Each person should make their own arrangements for air transportation. Some discounts are available through certain travel agents who specialize in South Africa trips. An example of agents using Delta or South African airways are Karell's African Dream Vacations (www.karell.com) and Premier Travel and Tours (www.premiertours.com). Depending on what these or other agents have to offer, your savings can be several hundred dollars. The tradeoff is that your ticket may not be refundable once purchased. You are encouraged to check out their fares and to speak to their representatives. BUT, don't book until your application has been accepted.
- E. **IMMUNIZATIONS:** Each applicant should consider what immunizations they need or wish to receive. The web site of the United States Center For Disease Control (CDC) provides guidance. <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationSouthAfrica.aspx> Your county health department can advise you of suggested immunizations and can provide some of these for a fee. Your personal physician can also advise you and provide certain shots that are desired. Among the immunizations to be considered are the following: Tetanus or tetanus booster, adult polio booster, Hepatitis A and/or B, and typhoid. (Educate yourself and do not rely on this comment for advice, but those who have been were advised the drinking water is safe and that Malaria is not a problem in the area of KwaMhlanga. Some who have gone took Malaria pills the first time but did not do so after receiving information that it isn't considered a threat by the locals.)
- F. **WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:** You will want to check out the website of the ministry in which we are involved. The children at the Manaleni Centre are the ones we will visit the most. It contains information about the work in KwaMhlanga and in Tampa and links to albums of pictures showing KwaMhlanga and Mandela Farm where we lodge. <http://www.mukhanyocentre.org.za/MCDC/Home.html> Additionally, check out St. James website which contains information about the Manaleni Center at: <http://www.HIVAIDSministry.com>

A really informative and moving You Tube video was made and posted by members of the 2009 Team. The first part is a montage of pictures with music. This is followed by an informative video explaining the Manaleni Center and the orphans it serves. This is where you'll spend a lot of your time.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1xqD9UsY4M&feature=player_embedded

Finally, check out Jason Nelson's blog of his experiences during as a Team Member. (I dare you to read this and not fill out the Application five minutes later!)

<http://www.jasonnelson.com/>

Still want to apply? Have at it!

II. Questions For the Applicant

1. Full Name:
2. Name by which you prefer to be called:
3. Address:
4. Telephone Nos: _____ Home _____ Mobile _____ Work
5. Email Address:
6. Date Of Birth, Social Security No., Credit Card info for your card having the largest remaining balance – no, no, just kidding about all of those, BUT, will you be 15 years old on the date of departure? _____ Yes No _____
7. Are you currently or have you in the past been employed outside the home?
____ Currently Formerly ____ If “yes” to either by whom and what do/did you do?
(If currently a student please state where you are in school and what you are studying)
8. Family Info:
Marital Status: _____ Married _____ Divorced _____ Widowed
The names of other family members who are applying to go on this trip:
9. Passport Questions:
 - a. Do you currently possess a valid passport? _____ Yes No _____
 - b. Will the passport expire within six months of the day of departure?
_____ Yes No _____

10. The Really Serious Stuff. Please use additional pages as needed:

A. What is YOUR reason for wanting to go on this mission trip?

B. Describe your experiences from any previous mission trips (however you choose to define “mission trips”) in which you participated and describe the role you played or how you served.

- C. To contribute to those in need in KwaMhlanga, it is sufficient to possess the skill of “sitting down” so orphans can gather around you and feel your love. But, do think you have any additional talents, abilities, skills or training that might be useful? Don’t be bashful. Describe them all – things such as playing music, leading games, teaching art, singing, videography or photography, the ability to speak Zulu [not kidding, although you will find some of the kids can speak English fairly well], possessing medical or dental skills, being able to tell stories, lead Vacation Bible School activities, etc.

11. Three pre-trip orientation sessions and one post-trip session will be conducted for all on the Team. It is MOST IMPORTANT that each participant – even if you have been before – attend each session for the purpose of Team building, developing a common sense of purpose, understanding the South African environment, and praying together as we seek to know God’s will for this group and to obediently respond.

Are you willing to commit to attend meetings from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on the following dates at the home of Paul and Ginah Butler in Temple Terrace?

Pre-Trip:

Sunday, August 29
Sunday, September 12
Sunday, September 19

Post-Trip

Sunday, October 10

_____ Yes, I will attend all meetings.

_____ No, I cannot attend all meetings.

Comment:

12. Upon your return would you be willing to share your experience with others in a way that fits your style and personality, whether that be by writing an article, meeting with small groups or classes, appearing before the congregation, doing a You Tube shoot, etc.

_____ Yes No _____

Comment:

12. **Deposit:** The size of the Team going impacts several issues – whether there is sufficient lodging, the number and size of vehicles to be reserved, and the specific goals and tasks to be accomplished on the mission trip. Therefore, each application is to be accompanied by a total deposit of \$100. A portion of this amount, \$25, will be used for the background check and is non-refundable under any circumstances. The remaining \$75 is refundable up to 45 days before departure. You will then be asked to deposit an additional amount ESTIMATED AT THIS TIME to be \$250 to cover food and lodging, ground transportation, and some miscellaneous expenses. This additional \$250 is due 30 days before departure. (Following our return if the amount paid is not sufficient to cover the associated costs the participant will be asked to contribute their share toward the shortage.)
13. **Background Check:** All United Methodist congregations in the Florida Annual Conference are required to run criminal background checks on those who work with children. There is an *Authorization, Request and Release For Criminal Records Check* attached to this application. It must be submitted with your application. By signing this application you are authorizing a criminal background check to be run and its results to be shared with anyone the Leadership Team of the HIV / AIDS Ministry at St. James deems advisable. Please note the background check includes charges and pleas for both misdemeanors and felonies. The authorization is attached. By signing this Application you are recognizing that \$25 of the Application Deposit is charged in connection with the background check and is not refundable even if you do not go on the trip. If you believe you have a current background check on file with St. James United Methodist, there is a place to so indicate on the application. If it is current, your balance due will be credited by \$25.)
14. We shall be working with and under the auspices of the Mukhanyo Community Development Centres (MCDC). MCDC has a restriction against the use of any alcohol or tobacco on any of its ministry property. By signing this Application you are committing to abide by the expectations of MCDC during the mission trip.

15. Okay, so you think this Application stuff has been tiring, laborious, boring and not what you had in mind. Just wait.....everything from here on is as good as it gets from God's perspective.

Application signed this _____ day of _____, 200__.

Signature: _____

DEADLINE FOR TURNING IN APPLICATION: July 1, 2010

Submit your Application to the attention of:

**The Reverend Paul Butler, Chair
HIV / AIDS Ministry
807 Ben Lomond Dr.
Temple Terrace, Florida 33617
813-495-4956**

butler.tampa@gmail.com

or to

**Bob Douglass, Director of Missions
St. James United Methodist Church
16202 Bruce B. Downs, Tampa, FL 33647
Phone: 813-971-4790 Fax: 813-971-8128
BobDouglass@stjamestampa.org**

NOTE: If you are at the St. James church, there is a box for the HIV / AIDS ministry in the hallway just outside the church offices. You can identify it by the red ribbon. Feel free to drop off your application in the box. However, it would be a good idea to email Paul and tell him it's there.

