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CORNERSTONE MINISTRIES EVANGELISTIC/BUILDING TEAMS 2015 AND BEYOND

**Isaiah 6:8 then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”
And I said, “Here I am. Send me!”**

The attached is for your consideration regarding a short-term mission trip to Jamaica (see our web-site www.cornerstonehelps.org).

It has always been amazing to me to see how God uses his people to accomplish so much here. I have witnessed huge changes in myself the ministry and the individuals who come on a mission trip so that we all end up walking away changed.

If I can encourage you to prayerfully consider going on a short-term mission trip whether it is here or anywhere else, I urge you to do so. (*For long-term mission work, one to two years or more, please see: “Cornerstone Ministries Personnel Needs,” [Home page].*)

As you may know, it was through a similar short-term mission trip to Jamaica in 1985 when I first sensed the presence of God calling me to Jamaica long-term. It is and was a memorable mission trip for me, and my prayer is that you would also have an unforgettable experience.

We have written the attached document in an attempt to cover any concerns or questions you might have. There is a lot of pertinent information here, so please read the document at least twice if you are planning a trip to come to Jamaica.

As you can see from the attached document, there are many needs and opportunities for mission teams to Jamaica, therefore we would like to ask you to assist us by offering this information to other churches and or individuals that may be interested in its content.

As you pass it on, please let us know to whom you sent it and their e-mail address or other pertinent information.

Thank you, with much love and great respect,

CORNERSTONE MINISTRIES

DOUGLAS KESSNER

FOUNDER/PRESIDENT

CORNERSTONE MINISTRIES INFORMATION PACKET

For

CONSTRUCTION/EVANGELISM TEAMS YEAR 2013 AND BEYOND

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CORNERSTONE MINISTRIES

EVANGELSTIC/BUILDING TEAMS 2015 AND BEYOND

GENERAL INFORMATION

Visit our web site for overall view of ministry: cornerstonehelps.org

Thank you for your interest in coming to Jamaica to bless Cornerstone Ministries to invest the talents God loaned you.

The following is intended as helpful information to make your trip more pleasant and productive.

Contact information, Jamaica:

Cornerstone Ministries,

21-A Connelly Avenue, Kingston 4,

P.O. Box 1760, Kingston 8, Jamaica, West Indies

e-mail: cornerstoneministries@flowja.com

Phone: 1-876-922-5689 or 1-876-922-5690

Fax: 1-876-967-1970

Contact person: Administrative Director, Phylis McGann

Contact information, in the USA

Cornerstone Ministries International

Cornerstoneint@bellsouth.net

Contact person: Founder President, Douglas Kessner

Expenses: The approximate cost of your trip per person will be between \$800 and \$1200US (*NOTE! These estimates may change without notice: Please check with Cornerstones administration for current costs*) Dollars for the average 7-10 day visit estimated. Please note that you are responsible for making all flight arrangements from your destination to Cornerstone Ministries in Jamaica.

Note! This estimate includes air-fare from Miami, Fort Lauderdale Airport, to Norman Manley Airport, Kingston Jamaica, plus approximate expenses while in Jamaica.

Comment! From Montego Bay, Jamaica, to Kingston, is a four to five-hour road trip. If coming direct for Cornerstone missionary outreach we do not recommend coming through Sangster International Airport, Montego Bay.

Note! This estimate does not include any air-fare incurred from your country, hometown, or city to “Miami Airport,” for your international destination Kingston Jamaica. You must add that expense to the total approximate expense quoted above.

Flights Direct from United States to Jamaica, (could change without notice)

Delta flights, American Airlines flights, US Airways flights, jetBlue flights,

United flights, Spirit Airlines flights, airTran flights, Caribbean Airlines flights

1. Where will your team be housed while ministering? Depending on the size of your team and the mission your team intends to accomplish; whether it is a building team or a building/evangelism team dictates accommodations.

Example: The options in terms of ministry are Cornerstones, main office/school in Kingston, or one of two of its sister ministries out of town both approximately 20 miles from Kingston. Your team will have an option of dorm accommodations or staying at any of a number of good hotels in Kingston.

Typically if your team numbers six or less and chooses dorm accommodations the dorm is no cost in our Kingston office/school.

Accommodations are very important to your mission team members and will be discussed further with Cornerstones, Administration to meet your specific needs.

2. While you are with Cornerstone, you can rent an 8 to 9 seat van for \$? - \$? US Dollars per week or a 15-seat van for *\$? to *\$? US Dollars per week. Gas is additional. The 15-seat van includes a driver. For the 8 to 9 seat van the driver (from your team) must have an American Express, Visa Gold or MasterCard Gold, or other credit card to cover insurance for the van. Without the credit card, a \$2,000 US Dollars cash deposit is required for the rental. Cost of renting a vehicle could be divided among team members. If you have an eight-member team, the cost is about \$? per person. Having transportation will afford you the freedom of going back and forth to the construction site and out in the evenings for special activities. A visitor coming to Jamaica can drive on his/her current, legal operators driver’s license from his/her country/state/province.

*OPTION: Cornerstone Ministries can recommend local drivers who have 12 seat vans that will meet any transportation/time slot needs you have at a reasonable cost of *US\$?

**Cost for use of local driver and van will be determined at time of need. (Generally more economical than from auto rental service in Jamaica.)*

3. It is hoped that your building team will be able to raise funds for construction projects undertaken by your team and that are ongoing at Cornerstone Ministries.

Building Projects Current:

- a. Solar panel hookup for battery backup in computer labs
- b. Windows new computer labs (repair leaks)
- c. Water: Control flooding in back school yard.
- d. Painting office and school buildings inside and out
- e. Second story class rooms addition: Drawings are complete and approved and are stored for future use.

NOTE! Please bring personal tools for the job, e.g., hammers, handsaws and general construction equipment. If you choose to leave any of the tools in Jamaica, it would be a blessing to the ministry.

TEAM LEADERS AND MEMBERS:

1. **Important:** We ask that the team leader try to know the team members, to ensure that they are mature, responsible and have integrity along with a willingness to follow through with a commitment, and are submissive to authority. If you do not know the team members very well, an interview ahead of time is recommended.
2. The mission trip will go best when there is a team leader in place who can coordinate with Cornerstones administration and your workers to ensure tasks and goals are running smoothly.
3. For construction teams, it would be good to include a carpenter, a plumber and an electrician, or persons who have experience in these areas.
4. It is advisable to have a cook/chef to prepare meals for the team depending where job site is, or a local person can be hired at a reasonable cost to accommodate your dietary needs. There are local vendors that provide local food, three meals a day at economical prices. These vendors have worked best for teams in the past.
5. It is important that team members be willing to work knowing that they are working for the Lord.
6. Each team member is expected to maintain their own health and life insurance policies and not hold Cornerstone Ministries liable for any accidents or misfortunes.

IMMIGRATION:

As you are coming through customs at the airport in Jamaica, state on your declaration card that you are a visitor. State you are a visitor as you are coming through customs. We suggest that you **DO NOT SAY YOU ARE A MISSIONARY WORKER, OR A CONSTRUCTION WORKER**, since this may cause all kinds of questions coming through customs. Remember you are visitors coming to Jamaica to volunteer your time for 7 to 10 days

Example: If you state while coming through customs you are here to work as an evangelist or to work in any field you must have a work permit to do so in Jamaica. We have had many teams coming through customs over the years and have had no problems.

PASSPORT: You will be coming as visitors staying for 10-12 days or long term, You must have a Passport!

On your declaration form: Coming through customs you must let customs know on your form that you have come to Jamaica to visit. Customs has to know you have a place to stay when in Jamaica. This is the address you must put on your customs declaration form.

**Cornerstone Ministries, 21A Connolley Avenue, Kingston 4
Phone: 876-922-5689 Office or Phone: 876-922-5690 Office**

You will need a round trip ticket, to prove to customs you are not going to be here illegally and you will be returning when the designated period ends.

Please write on your luggage tags when entering Jamaica:

**Cornerstone Ministries, 21A Connolley Avenue, Kingston 4
Phone: 876-922-5689 Office or Phone: 876-922-5690 Office**

On your declaration sheet write "**Personal Items.**" It is suggested when filling out your declaration form that you do not itemize all your belongings. Itemizing holds you up in customs and will delay your whole group.

When you get to the Jamaican airport, go through the regular Customs line.

LUGGAGE:

Each person is allowed one 50-pound? suitcase and one additional 45-pound? carry-on. Generally, a purse for women or for men some kind of personal carry on such as a personal laptop etc. is allowed also. It is suggested you check way ahead of your departure with the airlines of your choice as to the amount and weight of luggage etc.

Comment: It would be a blessing to the Jamaicans and to Cornerstone if each team member tries to bring the maximum. Rather than bringing clothes to give to local people, used tools would be great and would fill a gap - any carpentry, plumbing or construction tools such as wrenches, pliers, hammers, screw drivers, saws, levels, tape measures (12-16 footers), power hand saws, power drills (cordless).

If you have room in your suitcases, just as important of a need are supplies for our students, which are very expensive to purchase in Jamaica. These items include reams of white copy paper, reams of 3-ring lined binder paper, boxes of new #2 pencils, dry erase markers and boxes of standard staples. Any of these items would be a great blessing to our ministry.

Cornerstone usually has many different needs that are computer related that you could consider bringing with you. Please talk to Cornerstones, administrative director Valerie Gowdy, or Phylis McGann, for latest needs.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Church: It is recommended that Sunday morning be invested at a local church, we suggest:
Fellowship Tabernacle, 9:00AM to 12:00noon. Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Al Miller.
2. One day could be spent in Ocho Rios, (full day event) to see the famous Dunn's River Falls, and other tourist attractions, or time could also be spent at the beach. There will be a Craft Market for souvenirs. Depending on time available there are several options open for discussion regarding needs/desires and things to do. **Example:** You may have members of your team that would like to extend their stay by vacationing for a length of time. We can recommend several options to you! Our favorite is on the North Cost, www.strawberryfieldstogether.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **What airlines should we take and what is the name of the airport when flying into Kingston Jamaica?** (see page three for suggested airlines to Jamaica) Norman Manley International Airport, Kingston Jamaica
2. **If we happen to have more than 6-12 people interested in serving can you accommodate them?** If you have more than 12 people, half of them could stay in Kingston and half of them in Spring Village. Spring Village is our 12,000-person community development sister ministry.

- 3. Do we need any immunization shots?** No, you do not need any immunization shots.
- 4. What is the electrical current?** The electrical current in Jamaica is 110 and 220, but Jamaica is on 50/HZ, where as the United States the current is 60/HZ. U.S. hair dryers, razors, radios, battery chargers, computers, etc. work on Jamaican current. In addition, power hand tools work fine on Jamaican electrical current. Where there is a negative effect it is on machine equipment. The large motors tend to burn up after a while.
- 5. What will be the accommodations?** Eating, sleeping, etc. for the most part are dorm style. Unless your team chooses to be accommodated at one of the many hotels in Kingston. Team members and Cornerstones, administration can work out the details.
- 6. Is there a recommended dress code?** Modest Christian attire should be worn. Church is dress slacks for men and dresses or skirts for the ladies. No jeans at church service (sorry) for men or women. Shorts (not short shorts) are acceptable for men and women during working hours and leisure. Tank tops are ok for workdays.
- 7. Do you have forms to sign?** Yes, the following forms will be signed by each member of the team: 1) release of liability, 2) consent for treatment (medical) and 3) statement of burial on the field. For long term missionaries one year or more, there are longer forms to be completed.
- 8. How is cooking handled?** Generally, Cornerstone Ministries provides a local cook at a minimal cost. Our local vendors will provide food service to you three times per day or as requested. All food will be local cooking, lots of chicken, pork, fish, rice, ox-tail, vegetables, yam, salt fish and ackee, made to order. And for the most venturous of souls there is one Burger King, and a Kentucky Fried Chicken near by. (fast food is very expensive. There is NO McDonalds on the island. There are local super markets nearby to meet most of your needs.
- 9. How is transportation handled?** We suggest two options: **1.** Your team rent a van. Cornerstone Ministries will secure or reserve one for you from a local car rental facility, or you can obtain this service at the airport. **2.** We suggest that you hire on demand/need a local driver with a van that can accommodate your need that Cornerstone will obtain for you. This method is much more economical.

10. Who picks us up and returns our team to the airport? Suggestion number 2 item number 8 works well, Cornerstone will contact this service for you and meet your team as well as ensure your return trip to the airport.

11. What will the team be doing in Jamaica? You will know well in advance due to careful planning by your team leader and Cornerstones, administration based on skills and desires of your team. This also depends on the nature of your mission trip goals. Example: Construction/building teams, evangelistic, teaching, etc.

12. What are the work hours? We will work together with you based on skill, desire and needs. For example, will you be doing construction projects only, or construction plus evangelism or evangelism only, or working with the two sister ministries?

13. Is the water safe to drink? City water from the tap is safe to drink.

14. What is the average temperature? June, July, August and September is 85-95 degrees during the day and 72-78 degrees at night in Kingston. All other months are 3 degrees cooler ☺. Jan, Feb, and March, are ideal as far as the cooler weather.

Things to Bring or Expect:

1. Please note that all supplies such as tracts, Bibles, books, handouts, costumes, puppets, videos, etc. would need to be brought with you and anything extra that you could leave behind would be a blessing for continuing ministry.
2. Bring literature in English since Jamaica's primary language is English.
3. Bring mosquito repellent shaving cream etc., **NON AEROSOL CONTAINERS ONLY ON THE AIRLINES:** Do not bring repellent or any aerosol canister, cans or containers! Customs will confiscate these items from your luggage before leaving the USA.
4. Flashlight
5. First Aid Kit
6. Ear plugs
7. You will be staying in the rural community churches, homes or the school itself, so comfortable sleep options might be: blankets, air mattress, rolled up hiker's mat, sleeping bags, some kind of foam or sponge interior covered with synthetic material for moisture proof.

Note! Depending on the nature of the mission trip and where team will be staying, team leaders and Cornerstones, administration must work these details out before coming.

8. It is most likely in the rural areas that special diets will be a concern because food will be from the local market or food providers. If you have a special diet, you may want to bring supplements with you. (Again team leaders consult Cornerstones, administration.
9. In the rural area there are no fast food places, local food is readily available e.g. rice, yams, potatoes, vegetables, chicken, fish, goat meat, callallo, cabbage, mackerel and banana, liver and banana, yam, ackee and salt fish (Jamaican National dish). Taste nice and the price is right!

CORNERSTONE MINISTRIES

CONSTRUCTION MISSION TEAMS TO JAMAICA

General Information Regarding Mission Construction Teams:

We have ongoing projects that will meet any and all mission minded churches and persons that have a desire to serve for Gods glory. The following partnerships have been interlinked to provide your mission team or person with the best opportunity that will invest the talents God loaned them and produce the maximum results for Gods glory.

These joint ventures which include your teams/churches, involve Cornerstone Ministries, its sister missionary outreach projects, Spring Village, and our brother missionary outreach program, New Horizon Boys Home, as well as Fellowship Tabernacle Church, Girls Home.

The projects are intended to describe what Cornerstone wants to accomplish in the future. It should be understood that no one 10-day building team could accomplish all that is described. Our intention is that each building team will pick up where the other left off on the development project that best fits the expertise of that team.

As a general rule we will have at least one skilled Jamaican tradesmen working along with your construction team and following up between each building team's efforts.

As time goes on, construction scenarios change until ultimate goal of finished product is obtained.

Final Statement/Options:

As to what each ministry currently offers related to construction? These options vary in each of the ministries regarding what has been accomplished month to month year to year in each ministry option you may choose to work with and what your mission team desires to carry out given talent, time and funding.

Understanding the state of affairs Cornerstone wishes at this time to work together with your Pastor or mission team leader in order to best suit your desires that will best accomplish mission goals.

CORNERSTONE MINISTRIES

EVANGELISTIC MISSION TEAMS TO JAMAICA

General Information Regarding Mission Evangelistic Teams:

The opportunities in Spring Village are:

Evangelistic ministries are encouraged, especially if your team already has a specialty or expertise in evangelism. The following are some suggestions you can consider in each ministry Cornerstone is involved with: Cornerstone Ministries, Spring Village: (Boy's Home, the existing schools and the churches in the village) New Horizon: (Boys Home) Fellowship Tabernacle, (Girls Home)

Spring Village, New Horizon, Fellowship Tabernacle

Evangelism to pre-school children (ages 3-5 yrs):

- Christian coloring books and crayons.
- Paintings and drawings.
- Puppet show.
- Clowns.
- Christian stories targeted for this age group.
- Christian videos.

Evangelism to children (ages 6 and up):

- Can go into each classroom (adjacent all age school) or gather children together at the Sports Center (outdoors) as a group.
- Drama, dance and/or song
- Mime, clowns and/or games
- Flannel base with figures and easel (this is one of the best outreaches).
- Christian stories
- Poster board— Collage
- Christian movies
- Bibles, tracts and/or literature to handout
- Candy and/or balloons with scripture tied to them
- Sunday School literature

Adults/All Ages:

- Bibles, tracts and/or literature to handout.
- Presentations at the Town Square and/or Sports Center, i.e. drama, testimonies, show Christian films, etc.
- Evangelistic team to go out to the community and invite the people to upcoming events, such as a Gospel Concert, a Crusade, or a Film. The churches in Spring Village will be putting on the concerts and crusades, but would rely heavily on the evangelistic team to go door-to-door, to sports events, etc. to invite the community. At this time opportunities for handing out tracts, Bibles, candy, and such would be possible. ******This is one of the best outreaches since the churches are involved. There is a connection between the church and the people, which gives the community a place to be involved once the team leaves. ******

Cornerstone Ministries, Kingston

Note! If you are interested in long-term missions, one year or longer, and you have one or more of the following skills, please invest the talents God loaned you and contact Cornerstone ministries now.

1. Teacher:
 - Numeracy & literacy
 - Mathematics
 - Computers
 - Computer Aided Design
2. Councilors
3. Social Worker
4. Pastor
5. Accountant
6. Welder
7. Plumber
8. Electrician
9. Carpenter
10. Automotive
11. Hydroponics
12. Administration
13. Proposal and grant writer
14. Animation