

July-August, 2009 Tanzania Mission Trip Information

Scope of Mission Work: The project work centers on the Bomalang'ombe Secondary School. The team will spend a week in Bomalang'ombe, staying at the guest house built by the Italian non-profit economic development organization called CEFA. The team will work 5 full days at the secondary school. We will spend Sunday of our week in Mwatasi, where we will worship with our partners at Mwatasi Lutheran Church, after which we will meet with village leaders to discuss and inspect the water system.

The work at the school is comprised of facility improvements; work on the sustainable agriculture projects, water and electrical system extensions. The work on the staff quarters and multi-use hall will depend upon what stage the building construction is in when we arrive. We anticipate that we may mix and pour cement for the floors, construct and install windows, wire for and connect to electricity, paint, help organize the new science classroom furniture and equipment, assemble and/or move bunk beds. The work will be skilled and non-skilled, and as varied as our team members' expertise.

We will also have time to spend in the classrooms, and soccer field with the students and staff!

Preliminary Travel Schedule (not finalized): July 29 – August 12, 2009

Day	Date	Schedule	Overnight
Wed.	29-Jul-09	Team departs MSP via air (NWA-Delta)	airplane
Thurs	30-Jul-09	Change planes in AMS (KLM), arrive DAR evening	Pentecostal Guest House - DAR
Friday	31-Jul-09	Drive DAR to Iringa, complete supplies shopping for week	Iringa guest lodge
Saturday	1-Aug-09	Drive to Bomalang'ombe, unload supplies and set up work	CEFA Guest House/Headquarters
Sunday	2-Aug-09	Mwatasi- worship	CEFA Guest House/Headquarters
Monday	3-Aug-09	work at Boma Secondary School	CEFA Guest House/Headquarters
Tuesday	4-Aug-09	work at Boma Secondary School	CEFA Guest House/Headquarters
Wed	5-Aug-09	work at Boma Secondary School	CEFA Guest House/Headquarters
Thurs	6-Aug-09	work at Boma Secondary School	CEFA Guest House/Headquarters
Friday	7-Aug-09	work at Boma Secondary School	CEFA Guest House/Headquarters
Saturday	8-Aug-09	depart Boma early- visit orphanage - Iringa	Iringa Guest House
Sunday	9-Aug-09	safari at Ruaha National Park	Ruaha National Park safari lodge
Monday	10-Aug-09	Safari at Ruaha National Park	Ruaha National Park safari lodge
Tuesday	11-Aug-09	Flight from park (MAF) to Dar; depart DAR evening (KLM)	Airplanes
Wed	12-Aug-09	Change planes in AMS (NWA-Delta), arrive MSP afternoon	Airplane

Bomalang'ombe, Tanzania

Location: Tanzania is on the east coast of Africa, on the Indian Ocean. Kenya borders Tanzania on the north. Bomalang'ombe is a rural village within the Iringa district in southeast Tanzania.

Population: Village of Bomalang'ombe size is approx. 5000-8000 adults and children

Elevation: 7000 feet above sea level;

Topography: steep and rolling hills

Climate: Iringa region is dry and temperate, low 50°'s to high 70°'s (F); winter season low's 38-40° (F) (June-July)
hot and humid at Ruaha National Park for safari and in Dar Es Salaam

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Language: Swahili and tribal dialects;
English is primary language spoken at Secondary School

Economy: Subsistence farming; village has factories for sausage processing, and processing of jams, jellies and honey sold throughout the region. This village has a much stronger economy than surrounding villages without power and water because of its factories. Italian non-profit “CEFA” assisted with the development of power and water plant before development of factories. CEFA maintains presence and headquarters in village with an Italian Manager for general project oversight.

Monetary unit: Tanzanian Shilling; \$1 US = approx. 1100 shillings; easiest money exchange is handled at airport upon arrival in Dar. Bring clean, new bills in \$20 or larger denominations. Best exchange rate is \$100 bill.

Religions: Strong Lutheran presence, also Catholic, and other Christian churches; Muslim mosques are seen in Dar Es Salaam, Iringa and some villages.

Education: Government-sponsored public Primary School with 7 grades (“Standards”) for children approx 7-14 years old. Church-sponsored private Secondary Schools, requiring individual tuition, provide up to 6 years education beyond Primary School. English skills are acquired in Secondary School. Government-required tests by subject are administered in Secondary School and determine passage from one grade (“Form”) to another. Technical schools (for trades, nursing, and teaching) and universities are found throughout Tanzania. Tumaini University is a fast-growing Lutheran university and seminary in Iringa.

Food: Potatoes, rice, corn, sweet potatoes, beans, peas, carrots, flat bread (chapatti), corn-flour porridge (ugali); limited eggs, chicken and pork

Animals: There is little or no wildlife outside of the game parks/preserves. Domestic animals raised in and around the villages include pigs, goats, chickens, a few cows, and guinea pigs.
The road from Dar es Salaam to Iringa passes through Mikumi National Game Preserve. Wildlife including zebras, giraffes, impala and elephants are frequently seen in the Preserve. Ruaha National Park is a large game preserve within a 5-hour drive of Iringa. Our group goes to Ruaha for its safari.

Power: Municipal electricity is available throughout the village, generated by a micro-hydropower plant built by Italian non-profit, CEFA. Electricity is expected to be connected at the Secondary School by June. School cooking is done over open fires and a high efficiency stove engineered in Stillwater. Few villages in rural Tanzania have water and power like Bomalang’ombe. In Mwatasi and other areas without electricity, kerosene lanterns are primarily used for light.

Water: Municipal water is piped to common “taps” throughout Bomalang’ombe village, powered by the CEFA-developed system. The water system was extended to the Bomalang’ombe Secondary School in June 2007.

Safe bottled drinking water is purchased in Dar and Iringa and used by all American travelers. All of our overnight accommodations have running water to sinks, toilets, and showers.

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Transportation: The roads in Tanzania are minimally maintained. Because of the rough rural roads, even driving short distances can take a relatively long time.

The roads to/in Bomalang'ombe are dirt. Walking is the primary local mode of transportation. There are some bicycles in the village, however, hills make biking difficult. Some clergy have small motorcycles for travel between preaching points. A public bus is the primary means of transportation to the cities of Iringa and Dar es Salaam. Trucks and tractors are seen more in this village because of its industry than in other villages.

Medical care: Dispensaries staffed by a nurse with minimal resources are located within most rural villages, including Bomalang'ombe. Hospitals within 2-3 hours are in Ilula (Lutheran-sponsored) and Iringa. The CEFA manager reported good care at an Italian-sponsored hospital in Iringa.

Health issues: AIDS, Polio, TB and measles are present in the region's villages. Mosquito-borne malaria is less of a problem at the higher elevations in the Iringa region, but is present. Malaria-carrying mosquitoes are a common risk in Iringa and Dar. It is common for children and women to experience chronic respiratory problems and eye irritation from cooking fires. Childhood diarrhea and water-borne illnesses are common in villages without a safe source of water such as the municipal system in Bomalang'ombe.

Team travel information

En route: Overall travel from Twin Cities to Bomalang'ombe requires 2 ½ days. The flights from Twin Cities through Amsterdam to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania require approx. 24 hours. After an overnight stay in Dar es Salaam, the second day of travel is approx. a 7 hour drive from Dar es Salaam to Iringa. We will depart Dar early in the morning, eat a quick lunch and stretch at Mikumi National Park, arriving in Iringa mid-afternoon to purchase our supplies for the week. The team will stay overnight at a guest house or dormitory-type lodging in Iringa. The following morning, (our 3rd day), we will drive about 2-3 hours to Bomalang'ombe, meet the students and staff at the school, unpack our supplies and belongings, and organize the work for the first day.

In Bomalang'ombe: Accommodations in the village are at the guest house and headquarters of the Italian non-profit CEFA. Team members should bring sleeping bag liners for their personal use in the bedding. Sleeping bags are optional as there is bedding on the beds. The weather will be cool/cold (as low as 40 degrees F at night). All items for personal care must be brought by team members, including toiletries and towels. The CEFA guest house has electricity, running water and modern bathroom facilities. There is cell phone receptivity for our global cell phone, facilitating emergency communication. U.S. personal T-Mobile cell phones have worked there in the past. We maintain a Tanzanian cell phone for project communication and text messaging.

Transportation: Our team will be transported in a small to mid-size "coaster bus" that holds up to 15 people. The bus is driven by a reputable hired driver. Air conditioning may or

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may not be available. We may also rent a small 4-wheel drive vehicle for backup and errands.

We will also be flying by small aircraft (15 passengers) from the park to Dar. We will be flying with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) a medical mission group that has provide flight transportation for us on some past trips.

Health: All travelers are responsible for reviewing related medical recommendations with a specialized travel clinic or their doctor, and obtaining appropriate vaccinations and medications.

Note that there are a number of required and/or recommended immunizations. Yellow fever and typhoid vaccines may not be available at every clinic.

***** The Yellow Fever vaccination is a requirement for travel *****

You need to obtain a yellow vaccination verification travel card that is mandatory for travel. The Stillwater Medical Group travel clinic completes this travel card and is included with your vaccination visit.

Tanzania is a risk country for Malaria and Rift Valley Fever (RVF). Because of its elevation, mosquitoes are not as prevalent in Iringa and Bomalang'ombe as in Dar Es Salaam and other areas. However, mosquito-borne disease is still a risk and antimalarial medication is strongly recommended for all travelers. Mosquito nets for sleeping are in place in the guest houses we utilize in Dar and Iringa. Note that the Red Cross does not accept blood donations for 12 months after an individual has traveled in Tanzania because of the Malaria risk.

The Centers for Disease Control maintains an informative web site with country-specific information at www.cdc.gov/travel.

Documentation:

A current and valid passport is required for travel.

Your signed passport must be valid and with sufficient blank pages for any visa stamps. The passport expiration date must be greater than six months from the date of entry for the visa you are applying for. If your passport does not meet the requirements, you must [renew](#) your passport or obtain a [new](#) one from us prior to obtaining the visa.

Telephones: Pay phones and internet are available at the airport in Amsterdam. Timed pay phones are also available in the airport in Dar es Salaam and in the shopping area of Iringa with calls to the States for \$5/minute. There are also internet cafes in Iringa, although time in Iringa is very limited, especially on the arrival end of our trip. Cell phone towers/coverage extends to most rural areas, including Bomalang'ombe. We carry a global cell phone that can be used in any cell phone coverage area for emergencies.

Informative web sites:

www.cdc.gov/travel

<http://tanzania.usembassy.gov>

link from above site to "consular information sheet":

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1038.html

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Trip Costs and Payment Schedule:

The total cost per participant is \$4200.

This cost includes: your flights (\$2600), in country transportation costs, fuel, lodging, meals, guide and translator service, tools and supplies for our project, park entrance fee, and the safari and game drives (Your safari stay and game drive expense is almost \$500).

This does not include: medicines, vaccinations, passport and visa (\$100), beverages at the safari lodge, or personal purchases.

First Payment (\$2600) due April 20, 2009:

Your flight costs are approximately \$2600. We need this amount in order to secure your spot on the trip. We are purchasing regular air flights that need to be paid for in full at the time of purchase.

Second Payment (\$800) due May 15, 2009.

Third Payment (\$800) due June 15, 2009

Fundraising:

We need everyone to help with the Monday June 1, 2009 Golf Tournament- Dinner- Silent Auction fund raising event.

This event is helping to defray some of our trip expenses, and it is also helping to fund our sustainable agriculture projects at the school. This event will also help with funding at our local food shelf.

The team is invited to seek sponsors and donations outside the congregation at Trinity to help defray their individual trip cost, and the over-all mission expenses.

Please have all checks made payable to Trinity Lutheran Church with Aug. Tanzania trip in the memo line and mailed to the attention of: Tom Thiets. If the donation is a direct sponsorship of an individual missionary then a note assigning sponsorship should be included with the check.