

# FIREWIND MINISTRIES

## MISSIONS TRIP INFORMATION



We are looking forward to our upcoming ministry together. There is a great deal of work to accomplish and hundreds of souls to reach for Christ.

We are excited about this awesome time of ministry, as we dare to step out in faith, believing in our Lord Jesus Christ to perform His glorifying signs, wonders, and all manner of miracles to those afflicted and astray.

We desire that you come prepared in prayer, expecting God to draw the wayward and hurting ones to Himself. Please know that as you become part of this ministry team, you have been acknowledged as His chosen instrument through which He will reveal His love.

Thank you for being a part of this work, especially as the hour of His return draws even nearer.

*--Missionary Evangelists Mike & Marigold Cheshier*

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## In Preparation

Read everything you can about Kenya, checking out books and Internet resources. Focus primarily upon the Maasai people and the Nairobi slums of Mathare and Korococho.

Look through our website photo gallery and Facebook photo albums to see the kinds of work that we have done. You'll notice street crusades, medical clinics, children's evangelism, Maasai village (boma) ministry, school evangelism, orphanage ministry, church services, Masters Commission Kenya, and much more.

## Raising Money for the Trip

- **PRAY** regularly. If God calls, He provides.
- Begin to save. Regularly send payments to Firewind Ministries.
- You may choose to send out a sponsorship letter to family and friends.
- You may choose to do personal fund-raisers. Ask God to give you creative ideas.
- Let your pastor know about your trip. Some churches provide a certain level of support. Even if your church does not financially assist you, your pastor needs to know of your intentions. You want his/her prayer covering!

## Cross Cultural Tips

Cross-cultural relationships are complex and take time to learn, so be patient in your relationships, whether with us or national church members. Remember that your short exposure to the culture is not enough time to make you an expert on that field. Maintaining a positive attitude will serve you best, reflecting well on you, your relationship with the Lord, and your relationships within World Missions. Demonstrate the utmost respect for and cooperation with all missionaries, other American Assemblies of God personnel, and nationals. A spirit of concern and love will enable you to labor in harmony with us and will

present an image of unity to be followed by the nationals.

**Culture** is the sum of what an individual acquires from his or her upbringing: beliefs, customs, artistic forms, food preferences, crafts, dress, styles of music and worship, nonverbal communication, time orientation, spatial relationships in communication and so on.

## Relationships with Nationals

Work at developing and maintaining positive, healthy relationships with nationals, both saved and unsaved. Earning their confidence takes time. Let it be known you are there to manifest Christ and His gospel, and ask God for wisdom and diplomacy. For example, if nationals want to discuss world affairs and political matters, ask God to help you give answers that will satisfy them and at the same time allow you to turn the discussion to a witness for the Lord. Don't be afraid or apologetic for being an American, but on the other hand, don't go with the idea that you are there to represent the United States. You are there to represent Jesus Christ and His kingdom. If you feel your mission is to change their culture, nothing will be accomplished, and bridges for relationship and communication will crumble. Strive to introduce Jesus Christ into their lives, and trust the Holy Spirit to make any necessary changes.

## How to Deal With Conflict

Conflicts may arise, but keep lines of communication open with us. If you have a serious problem, speak with us first. Under no circumstances should you confront or try to deal with the problem alone.

## Culture Shock

Culture shock comes almost immediately—and quite naturally—when you arrive in another country. Culture shock need not become a problem, particularly if you understand and expect it as a normal aspect of adjustment to an unfamiliar culture.

We learn patterns of thinking, living, and relating from the families, communities, and cultures we are raised in. These patterns are automatic and natural, and we seldom stop to define or question them. It may never occur to us that people from other cultural backgrounds would think, live, and relate any differently than we do!

### ***Culture Shock Is Normal and Expected***

When first confronted with subtle and sometimes not-so-subtle differences between your culture and Kenya's culture, you can experience frustration at the ambiguity of it all. It's like being thrust into a game, knowing you're expected to play and win, but never having the rules explained. Attempts to communicate may be misunderstood. People's behavior may seem peculiar and make no sense. When you do not understand another culture's patterns of behavior, you experience automatic inward responses. These responses are referred to as ***culture shock***.

These responses can be mental, emotional, physical, and/or spiritual. You may experience discomfort—a sense of insecurity or not belonging. You may even feel like you have been reduced to the level of a baby, dependent on others again! The most intelligent, highly skilled individual may feel inadequate in an unfamiliar cultural setting. Interestingly enough, the subtle differences—not the glaringly obvious differences—more often cause stress and frustration.

Underlying the *aspects* of a culture that are outward (language, dress, food preferences, behaviors) are the *values* of a culture. An individual's outward behavior is often based on some cultural value.

## ***Keys to Dealing with Culture Shock***

Recognize that culture shock is a normal, human response to plunging into an unfamiliar cultural setting. You can deal with culture shock and maintain effectiveness in relationship building at the same time.

Writer Peter Adler described culture shock as “the very heart of the cross-cultural learning experience.” Dealing with culture shock forces you to reflect on yourself and your culture, resulting in a new understanding of your values, beliefs, and behaviors.

**Recognize that the depth and duration of culture shock will vary.** It varies from person to person—depending upon temperament and previous experience with adjusting to change—and from situation to situation—depending upon the cultural distance between the host culture and your own.

**Accept the host culture's living patterns.** Your host culture may have a long history and values that its people are used to or feel they have been well-served by.

**Recognize that *different* is not necessarily wrong, nor is it inferior.** By maintaining this attitude, you will remain open to others and ready to learn—rather than closed and ready to judge. This is the right relationship-building attitude!

**Accept that the host culture is imperfect, as is your own.** Biblical principles are the standard by which every human culture is measured, and therefore each one is imperfect.

**Avoid comparing the host culture to your own.** Avoid making comments that compare or contrast, particularly negative comments, and guard against an attitude of superiority.

**Do not talk about finances.** When talking to the nationals, do not mention money in any way. Do not talk about how much it cost you to come on the trip, how you raised the money, how much we make back home compared to how much the nationals make, how much

things cost at home compared to there. It's best not to mention money in any way.

**Step out in friendship.** Don't let cultural barriers—even language barriers—keep you from making friends with nationals. You will be amazed how far a smile and some “charades” will go! You can get involved in games or work projects, doing things side by side and developing camaraderie.

**Smile!** Always smile when meeting people. Do not wait for them to smile first. Take the first step and you will find that they will respond positively.

**Shake hands at every opportunity.** The handshake is a great friendship gesture. You will win many confidences by simply shaking hands. Children especially like to shake hands and will be disappointed if you overlook them.

**Do not make fun of anyone or anything.** Laugh with them—never at them! People never appreciate being made fun of. In fact, it could cause resentment toward you and the rest of the team.

**Be friendly.** Go out of your way to be as friendly as possible to everyone! Wave at people along the highways and streets. Be especially friendly to the children.

**Do not pity them.** You will see poverty, hunger, poor dress, sickness, deplorable sanitary conditions and more. Ignore their condition and love the people. Accept them as they are and let Christ be seen in you.

**Enter the host culture as a *learner* and a *servant*.** Practice your listening skills, and be ready to ask for help when needed. Do not go as the one with all the answers and the right way to do things! That approach automatically builds walls instead of bridges.

**Learn some of their language.** Even a few words will help!

**Give yourself time to adjust.** Realistically, adjustment happens slowly over the course of months and years. Simply adjust as much as you can during your time on the field.



**Recognize that being a Christian will not shield you from experiencing culture shock.** God is not only interested in the result of your ministry on the field, but He is also very interested in the process of transforming *you* into His likeness. His Word makes clear that He brings good into our lives even through frustrating and difficult circumstances. He can use the natural cultural adjustment process to shape you and make you more flexible, open, sensitive, and freer from monocultural constraints.

**Maintain a balance of appreciation for your culture versus the host culture.** Occasionally, someone totally rejects his or her own culture in favor of another. This response is psychologically and emotionally unhealthy, because it is actually impossible to totally divorce from one's own culture. Each individual is a product of his or her culture, and those who turn their back on their culture will experience frustration in the effort to leave behind their very foundations and build new ones. Build and maintain a balance of appreciation for what is good within one's own culture and what is good in the host culture.

What is the bottom line? Culture shock is not something to be feared or avoided. It is part of your growth as a person and a disciple of Jesus Christ.

## **Spiritual and Physical Challenges**

Spiritual attacks often accompany culture shock. You have invaded the enemy's territory, and he is not going to give up without a fight.

One of his attacks is to bring severe despondency while on assignment. Little things can creep into your mind and become a constant irritation. Relational problems can develop, often over small differences of opinion. Fears may crop up that hinder your work. Resolve not to be a victim! Recognize problems for what they are, and deal with them in the power of the Holy Spirit so they do not interfere with your work in missions.

Spiritual attacks may also come in the form of health problems. These are usually limited to temporary illnesses due to changes in water and food, but they can still impair the work of spreading the gospel. Such ailments do not ordinarily last long, and the body adjusts to the changes. A stomachache does not signal a life-threatening disease. We will help if you experience health problems.

Whatever the attack, combat it through prayer. Set aside daily prayer times alone with God. He is far greater than the enemy, and He will help you emerge victorious over your fears.

### ***Spiritual Preparation***

An important part of spiritual preparation for your assignment is to place yourself under the discipline of the Holy Spirit. Your term of service will only be as fruitful as the extent to which the Holy Spirit has control of your life. Let Him work in and through you to develop a meaningful witness and to direct every aspect of your life.

Prayer is still God's method of accomplishing His work, so be a prayer warrior. Open communication with God is necessary before trying to work for Him. This assignment, if bathed in daily communion with the Lord in prayer and Bible study, can be the most enriching experience of your life.

### ***Physical Health***

Guard against overtaxing your strength. In the excitement of being in a new place with new responsibilities, many people drive themselves far beyond their physical endurance. This brings on fatigue that often leads to illness. Either one will sap your strength and hinder your usefulness in the task to which you are called. So use good judgment, and don't overdo it. Pay attention to your body's need for physical exercise, nutritious food, and plenty of sleep. Heed the missionary's instructions regarding local foods and drinking water.

## **Expected Conduct**

You are, first and foremost, a witness and messenger of Jesus Christ in cross-cultural situations.



### ***Dress and Conduct***

Men may wear t-shirts or button-up shirts, jeans or khakis.

In America, it is considered indecent for women to be bare-breasted. In Kenya, it is considered indecent for women to show the outline of themselves from the waist down. This is an African cultural issue. It is not a "holiness" or religious issue. Some younger girls in the city, however, are wearing slacks and jeans—which violates the age-old structure.

Women are asked to wear skirts throughout the ENTIRE time in Kenya (even when on safari or city shopping), in order not to bring offense.

We are there as ministers of the Gospel, not as tourists. Our comfort or opinions are not priority. Sharing the Gospel of Jesus IS priority.

Long, wide-bottomed skirts are best for movement, as there is much climbing in and out of vehicles. It is ideal if they have pockets—you can carry wet wipes, tissue and hand sanitizer with you at all times.

Women should keep “modesty” in mind—avoiding the thin strapped tops. Slips or leggings may be necessary under skirts.

Ladies, if you are not a usual “skirt wearer,” may we suggest that you find garments in a modest style and color that appeals to you. And then, *“do it as unto the Lord and not unto men.”*

Gals may wear pants during your flights.

### ***Alcoholic Beverages***

The privilege of being a missions team member places a solemn responsibility upon each one to walk worthy of his or her calling to missionary service, no matter how short the assignment. This includes abiding by the standards and behaviors sanctioned by the Assemblies of God within the United States even in cross-cultural settings. Therefore, you are not allowed to consume alcoholic beverages while overseas, regardless of the social situation you may find yourself in.

### ***Dating Relationships***

Team members are expected **not** to date a national or an American while on the field. Your purpose for being overseas is to serve alongside the missionary family, not to find your spouse. *Be friendly with everyone, but romantically involved with no one.* If you feel you are becoming romantically involved, discuss your feelings with your supervising missionary immediately, seeking his or her counsel.

### ***Adoption of Children***

Volunteers should not consider a missions trip as an opportunity to pursue the adoption of a child.

### ***Speaking Through an Interpreter***

The language barrier need not be a big problem in a public speaking ministry. If you need to speak through an interpreter, observe the following:

- Smile—not a forced smile, but one that reflects your natural joy in Christ.
- Speak to and look at the audience, not the interpreter.
- Speak loudly enough to be heard.
- Gesture naturally as you speak, but do not overdo it.
- Be brief, remembering that a five-minute testimony is really ten minutes long when given through an interpreter.
- Testify in short statements, pausing for the interpreter to keep up with you.
- Limit your testimony to what Christ has done for you, how much you love Him, and what He can do for them.
- Close with a verse of Scripture.



# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Please keep in mind that the trip costs vary depending upon these things:

- Time of year that you are traveling
- The type of ministry that you are engaging in
- How long you're planning to stay in Kenya

For a "usual trip," the cost is around \$3,500. To get an exact total of your trip cost, contact the Firewind Ministries office, using information at the beginning of this packet.

Items which are NOT covered in your trip costs are:

- Any soft drinks consumed
- Snacks
- Visa fee (\$50)
- Souvenirs
- Anything you want to buy in the airports during your travel.

## ***Money Tips***

Please try to bring the most current dated American bills. The larger the bill, the better the exchange rate. \$100 bills receive the best rate.

You will need some smaller bills to get through the airports on your journey abroad. For example: If you give a merchant in London a large American bill, he may not have US dollars to make change. He will then give your change to you in his own currency. This goes for all countries through which you may travel.

## **Insurance Coverage**

### ***Guarantee Trust Life Insurance***

The MAPS office has a policy with Guarantee Trust Life (GTL) for accident/illness coverage for short-term volunteers. GTL insurance is required for each MAPS volunteer.

This GTL policy is not the same as your health insurance policy; it is supplemental to it. Even if your own health insurance is in force while you are outside the United States, it is imperative you have the additional benefits listed at right. These benefits are specific to medical emergencies that may occur while outside the United States.

### ***Cost***

The cost is \$3.00 per day, including the day of departure and the day of return. Firewind Ministries will provide you with the necessary paperwork and specific instructions concerning this insurance fee.

### ***Benefits***

\$100,000 24-hour accidental death and dismemberment

\$1000 monthly limit for permanent, total disability based on an accident (100-month maximum, with a 12-month waiting period)

\$1000 monthly limit for permanent total disability based on illness (50-month maximum, with a 12-month waiting period)

\$50,000 accident medical limit

\$10,000 sickness medical limit

\$50 deductible per occurrence

\$75,000 medical evacuation limit

\$10,000 repatriation of remains limit

# TRAVEL

## Passport

You must have a passport! A passport identifying you as a citizen of your country is required for travel in most countries other than your own and for reentry into your own country. Detailed information is available at the U.S. Department of State's Web site, <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>.

Apply in person at a passport agency in specially designated post offices. If your post office does not handle passports, ask a post office employee where you can go to apply.

The following documentation is required in the application process for a U.S. passport:

**A properly completed passport application.** Instructions are on the back of the application form.

**Two recent color photographs.** *Specific size requirements are noted on the application—be sure to adhere to them carefully!* Your post office might be equipped to take this photo, or you can try a local Wal-Mart, drug store, or photo studio.

**Proof of U.S. citizenship.** Generally, the original or certified copy of your birth certificate is acceptable proof. (The following documents are not acceptable: Social Security card, learner's or temporary driver's license, a credit card, any temporary or expired identity card or document, any document that has been altered or changed in any manner.)

**A fee.** Ask at the post office or check on the Web site for the exact amount. Paying by personal check may slow the process, so another method such as cash or money order is a good option.

Your passport will be sent to you by mail anywhere from two to eight weeks after applying. The process can be expedited for an additional fee; obtain that information from the Web site mentioned above.

**IMPORTANT: *Sign your passport immediately and complete the information on the inside cover.***



A passport issued to an individual who is at least 18 years old will be valid for ten years. If you already have a passport but it will expire within six months, you must apply for a new one. Ask for instructions at the post office and/or check the Web site for information.

**Make several photocopies of the photo/signature pages of your passport,** the pages that also contain the official stamp of the issuing agency. Keep one

copy with you while traveling, but in a bag or place separate from the passport itself. Give another copy to a parent or close friend for safekeeping. Should your passport become lost or stolen, this copy can be used in the process of obtaining a new one.



## Vaccinations for Overseas Travel

To find out what is required or at least recommended for your destination:

Contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ■ Call 1-800-232-4636.

■ Go to their Web page on travelers' health, <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>.

See if any hospital or clinic in your area has a "travel clinic."

Talk to your personal physician.

Call your local health department.

Talk to your travel agent, especially if the agency does a large volume of foreign-travel ticketing.

You can then make an appointment with your personal physician or with a local travel clinic to obtain your required vaccinations.

## Travel Flight Arrangements

Marigold will purchase your tickets for you, and then email your itinerary to you.

### ***Packing***

The most important "do not" in traveling abroad is *do not bring too much!* Keep in mind that most of the time you will be carrying your own luggage. Since you may want to bring back a few personal purchases from abroad, reserve some packing space for this.

Here are some helpful hints gleaned from frequent overseas' travelers:

Leave items you cannot afford to lose (for example, expensive jewelry or nice camera) at home. Put a snapshot of the luggage you will check in into your carry-on luggage—just in case checked luggage pieces are temporarily lost. The photo will assist the airline in its search for your bags.

Line your suitcase with plastic to protect the contents. In some airports it is not unusual for luggage to sit outside, unprotected from rain.

Bring clothing that can be layered so you can make adjustments if the weather becomes unseasonably cold or hot.

Carry a change of clothing, bottled water, small packages of tissues, medications, and other necessities in your carry-on luggage—just in case your checked baggage does not arrive on time.



### ***Luggage***

Check your airline ticket/itinerary regarding the luggage limits established by each airline on which you will be flying:

Number of bags you are allowed.

The dimensions for each bag.

Weight limits.

Here's an *example* of what is generally allowed for most trips abroad. You are usually allowed to check two pieces of baggage free. Measure the dimensions of each:

The total dimensions (length plus width plus height) of a bag must not exceed 107 inches.

No bag can exceed 62 inches in any one dimension (length or width or height).

No bag can weigh over 70 pounds.

Usually only one carry-on bag is allowed, which must not exceed 45 inches in any one dimension.

Check excess baggage if you need more space.

Excess baggage will be charged a certain amount per piece, varying from \$20 to \$300.

Restrictions on excess baggage specify that no piece can exceed 62 inches.

### ***Money***

Put your money on your body, preferably under your clothes. It is best not to carry a wallet in your back pocket.

### ***Medicines***

Only bring medicines you take on a regular basis. All other pharmaceuticals can be obtained abroad.

### ***Jewelry***

Jewelry is not recommended because of theft in the city. Earrings, necklaces, bracelets and watches can be ripped from you.

## **More Tips for Traveling**

Plan to arrive at the airport at least two hours before departure time. This is an absolute must when beginning an international trip, even if the first leg of your trip is a domestic flight. Make sure you have your tickets, passport, visa, and certificate of immunizations (if required). You should also be sure to have money (some in small bills) and/or travelers' checks as well as contact information of your family and the missionaries.

Check your baggage through to your final destination—unless you have an overnight layover in the United States. If you do overnight in the States while en route, you must pick up your luggage at baggage claim and then recheck it the next morning as you board the international flight. This airline regulation exists for security purposes; you are not permitted to check the baggage all the way through to the final destination if you are not going to accompany it on the flight.

Keep all baggage stubs with your tickets, making sure you were given the ones that match what is on your luggage.

All carry-on bags must be placed under the seat or in overhead storage when you board. Be certain your carry-on bags meet airline requirements in size, or they will be checked and put in the hold of the aircraft. Put a name tag on each piece of luggage. Remember how many pieces you initially checked, since you will need to verify all of your luggage has arrived at your destination.

When exiting airplanes, cars, buses, or trains, be sure to make a final check for luggage and personal items. People have been known to allow a piece of luggage to travel across a continent without them!

When changing to a different airline for a connecting flight with a different airline, check in immediately at the corresponding ticket desk to determine the gate number and loading time and to reconfirm your reservation. You can also check the monitors stationed throughout the airport, looking for your airline and flight number and gate number listed. Proceed IMMEDIATELY to the gate, and report to the airline's counter at that gate to reconfirm your flight and find out when boarding begins. When changing planes with the same airline, ask any airline agent in the terminal for the correct gate number, then proceed immediately to that gate. Again, you can also refer to the monitors stationed throughout the airport.

If your plane encounters some emergency en route that requires you to stay overnight at the expense of the airline, carefully follow the instructions of the airline personnel. You and your baggage—other than your carry-on—may be separated because the baggage has been checked through by the airline. It should catch up with you or arrive at your destination at the same time you do.

## Immigration Card

While in flight, you will be given an immigration card to complete. If you do not understand all of its terminology, ask a flight attendant for assistance. Here are some helpful definitions:

**Port of Disembarkation.** The city of your destination.

**Port of Embarkation.** The U.S. city where you boarded the international flight.

**Proof of Citizenship.** When using a passport, fill in the passport information such as passport number, date issued, date of expiration, and city where it was issued (stamped inside the passport).

**Purpose of Entry.** “Tourist” is the designation you should use.

**The Consulate General or Embassy.** This is the issuing agency for visa holders in your destination country.

**Airline.** This stands for the agency issuing the tourist card.

**Place You are Staying in Nairobi Upon Arrival—**  
Oak Place Conference & Training Centre, P.O. Box 48851-00100, Nairobi, Kenya, Phone: 254-020-8034322

## Customs

### *When Entering Kenya*

When you get off the plane at Jomo Kenyatta Airport, you should have these items within easy reach, since you will be asked by the customs inspector to show some or all of them:

- Passport.
- Visa Application which you will fill out on the plane. If you are only given a card, you will need to complete an 8 1/2x11” form in the airport.
- \$50 bill.

You will stand in line to have your passport stamped. Then proceed downstairs to baggage claim and claim all of your luggage. Proceed to customs near the exit.

When you reach the customs inspector’s counter, you should already have your luggage unlocked in the event the inspector asks to look

through your bags. Place all bags (including handbags, purses, attaché cases, and camera cases) on the counter. Answer all of questions respectfully. Remain patient and courteous. The customs inspector will stamp your passport, showing the date you entered the country.

Proceed through the exit when someone from Firewind Ministries will be waiting to pick you up.

### *When Returning to the United States*

Remember that you are not permitted to bring animals, plants, or fruit back into the United States.

While in flight to the United States, the flight attendant will give you a customs declaration form. List all items (and their costs) that you purchased abroad and are bringing back into the United States. Each person is allowed \$300 duty-free purchases. In other words, you will not have to pay a tax unless the total cost of purchases exceeds \$300.

Note that when you board the flight to leave that foreign country, you may be charged a nominal tax or fee in addition to the price of your ticket. Some countries are now charging what is usually called a “customs fee” to help provide additional airport security.

## What To Do in Case Of...

### *Missed Flights*

If you miss a connecting flight due to mechanical failure, weather, or something similar, the airline is responsible for getting you to your destination, paying food and housing costs, and notifying those waiting for you at your destination. *However, you must make sure this happens.*

If you miss a connecting flight due to your failure to report to the proper boarding gate, even if you were at the terminal on time, it is your responsibility to get another flight, pay any



additional costs (including the cost of an overnight stay, if necessary), and notify those who were to meet you.

### ***Lost Luggage***

Make sure all your luggage is tagged for its correct destination. Keep all stubs. If a piece of checked luggage does not arrive by the time you do, go immediately to the airline ticket counter and fill out a claim. Be sure to give instructions as to what to do with the luggage when it is found. Get the name and telephone number of the agent you talk to in case further communication is necessary. (It is a good idea to have your name and address *inside* as well as *outside* each piece of luggage.)

### ***Communicating with Family in the USA***

If you purchase a phone card (approximately \$12) you can use a team member's cell phone or internet to stay connected to your family. It is very expensive for people in the USA to call Kenya. However, in case of an emergency, your family can reach Marigold on her African cell phone. That number is at the beginning of this packet.

Phone and internet service is available at the Nairobi hotel, as well as in village internet cafes.

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## ***What is the plane ride like?***

The flight across the ocean, and then on into Kenya is on a large plane, at least 10 seats across, with two aisles. Each seat has its own TV/video screen, remote and ear phones. Once in the air, you will be able to watch your choice of movies, play a variety of video games, or listen to music. You can also view a map which shows the exact location of the plane. It's interesting to mark your progress over the ocean, Europe, and northern Africa. You may want to bring along an iPod.

Several meals are served, as well as snacks and cold drinks. Small pillows and lightweight blankets are provided. It is a LONG flight, and the seats do not recline much. Though the plane will be very crowded, it is suggested that you walk around a bit—both to use the restroom and to get a little exercise.

## ***What is it like at the campsite?***

Many photos are posted on FIREWIND MINISTRIES Facebook page and website. It would be beneficial to look at these.

Team members are assigned to permanent tents—sturdy large structures placed on a concrete pad. Four people can comfortably fit inside each tent, each with their own comfortable twin-sized bed. Sheets, blankets and pillows are furnished.

An electric fence surrounds the property, and Maasai guards keep watch both day and night.

Meals are prepared inside a kitchen and served in a dining hall—complete with fireplace.

There is a concrete choo (outhouse) and shower house (four private bathing stalls).

A campfire with chairs becomes the “hot spot” of the trip.

## ***Is it safe to camp? What about the animals?***

Maasai guards are hired to stay awake all night. They are armed with spears, clubs and poison arrows—weapons that are very effective for them. You will hear animal sounds, but you will be safe.

## ***What animals are around the campsite?***

You will see or hear hyena, wildebeests, zebras, hyrax, birds and maybe distant lions. At different times throughout the year, you might see elephants, giraffes, monkeys, antelope, gazelles, and much more.

## ***Will we go on safari?***

Teams experience at least a day safari into the game park. The roofs of the vans lift so that you may stand and get a good look at the animals. Cameras are a must! You will possibly see lions, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, antelope, gazelles, cape buffalo, elephants, warthogs, cheetahs, leopards, baboons, monkeys, hippos, and much more. As long as you remain inside the vehicles, you are perfectly safe.

### ***What is it like in the Nairobi slums?***

The slums of Nairobi are very dirty. The people are poor, diseased, and for the most part—hungry. There is no running water. Human sewage flows down the dirt streets. The houses are made of metal and wood scraps. Vermin are abundant. AIDS, malaria, and other diseases have claimed many lives, and there is an abundance of homeless orphans. Prostitution is rampant. Thievery and violence are common. People live and scrounge for food in the city dump.

You will visit some of the schools, orphanages and churches established by Firewind Ministries.

### ***Is it safe to eat the food and drink the water?***

Drink the water? Definitely not. You will be supplied with all of the safe drinking water that you need. Any other bottled beverages are safe to drink.

Any food that is cooked is safe. With regards to raw food—avoid the salad. Any fruit that can be peeled is safe. All food served at the campsite is safe. The Cheshiers will answer any questions that you may have about specific foods.

### ***How do I brush my teeth?***

You must not use tap water. Instead, use the provided bottled water to wet your toothbrush and rinse your mouth. The well water at the campsite has been tested to be safe.

### ***What is typical Maasai village ministry like?***

Upon finding the remote Maasai village, the translator/interpreter will ask for permission for the team to visit. When granted, the team will leave the vehicle and greet the people with a handshake.

Music and singing capture the attention of the people. Then, based upon the team leader's directions, individual share brief testimonies, and the Word of God is preached. A salvation invitation is given, and prayer for the sick also takes place.

Before leaving the village, candy may be distributed.

### ***I am not a preacher. What could I do to help the ministry?***

People are needed to minister to the children with games and Bible stories. Others are needed in support roles which differ with each ministry task. Everyone has something that they can offer. "Ministry" means "seeing a need, and meeting it." On medical missions assignments, doctors, nurses, dentists, and assistants are a great blessing!

### ***Once in Kenya, what is travel like?***

Teams ride in 8-10 seat passenger vans. Travel in Kenya is difficult, to say the least. Nairobi streets are EXTREMELY crowded. Our drivers are experienced. So rather than comment on the driving, it is best to close one's eyes and thank God for His protective power.

Outside the city, there is some improvement in the highways. But once we get to the mara ministry area, the roads are ROUGH. You may expect many large potholes and lots of dust or mud (depending upon the season). Those individuals with chronic back problems should seriously consider the road conditions before venturing onto this mission field. The van is equipped with hold bars which help during difficult journeys.

There comes a point when we go "off road," and travel through scrub bushes to reach villages. The drivers do their best to keep things as smooth as possible.



### ***Should I take supplies or gifts for the Kenyan people?***

Check with the Firewind Ministries office during your preparation time to find out what supplies are needed. Examples might include: school supplies, specific clothing items, etc.

### ***What are some of the words I can learn?***

We minister primarily between three languages:

**English**—the national language that is taught in schools.

**Kiswahili**—the language spoken in Nairobi and non-Maasai areas

**Maa**—the language spoken by the Maasai.

We have interpreters that will work with us. However, you may want to learn some of the words ahead of time. The Kenyans enjoy hearing us try to speak their language. There are many helpful websites that offer basic language learning. Simply type in Kiswahili or Maasai in the search engine.

#### ***Kiswahili Words You Will Use:***

*Hello—Jambo*

*Karibu (Car-ee-boo)—Welcome or  
You're welcome*

*Asante (Ah-san-tay)—Thank you*

*Kwaheri (Kwa—hair-ee)—Goodbye*

*Bwana Asifiwe (Bwana Ah-si-fee-way)—  
Praise God!*

*Choo (long "o" sound)—toilet*

#### ***Maa Words You will Use:***

*Sopa (soap-uh)—Hello*

*Olesare (o-lay-sair-ee)—Goodbye*

*Mesesiyesu (Meh-seh—see-yay-sue)—  
Praise Jesus!*

## ***Packing List***

**This list can be adjusted according to personal needs.**

- ☐ 5 or 6 changes of clothing. Firewind Ministries employs Maasai women to hand wash laundry daily. This provides income to the Kenyans and a service to team members.
- ☐ Socks, sleepwear, underwear
- ☐ Jacket or sweater. It does get chilly after sunset.
- ☐ Comfortable hiking boots or high top shoes. These are necessary in the high grasses and abundant animal “scat” (manure). Fallen thorns from the acacia thorn trees cover the ground. Wear something that covers at least the ankle.
- ☐ Flip flops for the shower
- ☐ Comfortable shoes for city wear or church services. No sandals or open toed shoes as parasites can find a lodging place under the toenails.
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries. When the sun goes down in the African bush, it is VERY dark!
- ☐ Travel alarm clock
- ☐ 2 or 3 towels and washcloths
- ☐ Sunscreen. Kenya is on the equator.
- ☐ Chapstick or lip balm
- ☐ Toiletries (shampoo/conditioner, body wash, make-up, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- ☐ Hand mirror, brush, comb
- ☐ Malaria, diarrhea, motion sickness, allergy meds
- ☐ Insect repellent which contains “deet.” Bring a non-aerosol container.
- ☐ Small packs of tissue (toilet tissue is rare!)
- ☐ Wet wipes—these are great for personal hygiene in the bush, as well as cleanup after riding on the dusty roads.

- ☐ Small bottles of hand sanitizer and liquid soap. **THIS IS A MUST!** You will use this FREQUENTLY!
- ☐ Gum, breath mints, personal candy (You can always bring extra candy for the children.)
- ☐ Bible, journal, ink pens
- ☐ Camera, extra batteries, battery charger
- ☐ If you bring something requiring electricity, pack an adapter which can be purchased in the luggage dept.
- ☐ Snacks—crackers, jerky, nuts, etc., that you can carry with you. If you don’t use these yourself, you can share them with the team during daily journeys. They will also save you money in airports.

Tip: It is good to pack your clothing in jumbo Ziploc bags or space saver bags. It will protect them from spills during travel, and will help in packing very dirty shoes and clothing for the return trip.