

Bahamas Methodist Habitat (BMH)

December 27, 2008 to January 3, 2009

Camp Symonette, James Cistern

Eleuthera, The Bahamas



What is BMH?

Bahamas Methodist Habitat is a disaster relief and emergency home repair outreach ministry of the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church through which volunteers work together to repair and build homes for low income families in the Bahamas. The goal is to improve the living conditions and lifestyle for families in need in the Bahamas, while offering transforming experiences for volunteers and homeowners alike by sharing and receiving the Love of Christ.

What work will be done?

There are a number of possibilities as far as what projects we will be working on, though we will not know specifics until closer to the mission dates. The mission camp has been refurbished since suffering major damage in Hurricane Frances in 2004, and continues to need work. There are also a number of home repair and new construction projects on the island. Some of the projects could be the same as with Youth ASP – home repair involving drywall, painting, roofing, framing, etc. New construction projects involve all aspects of home building with job-specific local professionals performing work as needed (plumbing, electrical, etc). Projects could also center around other local needs such as community centers.

What preparations will be made?

The following preparations are planned as a part of this trip:

- Identify team leader and other core adults as a responsible “leadership team”
 - Dave Lanzer volunteered to lead and is already a trained VIM Leader
 - At least one, maybe two, more trained VIM leaders plan to be involved
- Obtain CUMC sponsorship
 - Approved by the CUMC Missions Team on March 18, 2008.
 - Recommended to and officially sanctioned by the Administrative Council on March 25, 2008.
- Form the team
 - An initial planning/interest meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2008, to discuss the mission objective and identify participants
 - Maximum of 28 people due to logistics
 - Two adults on each of four work crews consisting of 7 volunteers total. This makes the youth to adult ratio 5:2 (20 youth, 8 adults).
- Hold regular meetings
 - Monthly, when possible
 - Keep the team organized and focused on the purpose of the mission
 - Do team building and discuss cultural sensitivity
 - Skills training in construction
- Register the team/mission with the District/Conference VIM Coordinators
- Make travel arrangements

- The travel agent we used for the 2007-2008 trip (Boscov's in Salisbury, MD) is currently evaluating potential travel options for us so we can prepare a more accurate and detailed financial plan.
- Schedule, plan, and execute fundraisers with an emphasis on fundraising *outside of the church*. Fundraisers conducted at the church will emphasize large, one-time events (such as a dinner) rather than long, lower-return events (selling something for three or four weeks on Sundays).
- Obtain approval for VIM Insurance
- Register for VIM training for interested adults
- Register for Wilderness First Aid training through the Red Cross
 - There are already two currently-trained adults who might participate in this mission.
 - The goal is to have at least one WFA-trained adult on each work crew. So we would need two more adults to be trained.
- Schedule Safe Sanctuaries training for *all* adults (age 18 and up)
- Map out contingency plans

What is the estimated cost?

This mission will accommodate up to 28 volunteers at a total cost of approx. \$34,464.40. This averages to about \$1,230.87 per person. The cost includes the following:

- \$14,100 due to Bahamas Methodist Habitat
 - \$100 non-refundable registration fee
 - \$500 per person Volunteer Fee (covers lodging, food, transportation on the island, and construction supplies)
- Approximately \$18,000 for transportation between Maryland and Eleuthera (this cost depends on the availability of flights).
- Money for VIM Insurance, Wilderness First Aid classes
- Miscellaneous Expenses
 - See “Expenses from Estimated Budget” for more details on additional items and individual costs.

Expenses from the Estimated Budget

Expense	Description	Cost (\$)
Group Registration Fee	\$100.00 total	100.00
Volunteer Fee Deposit 1	\$100.00 per person x 28 people	2,800.00
Volunteer Fee Deposit 2	\$200.00 per person x 28 people	5,600.00
Volunteer Fee Balance	\$200.00 per person x 28 people	5,600.00
Flights (Deposit)	If needed	--
Flights	\$643.80 per person x 28 people	18,026.40
Transportation (Taxi)	For Taxis in Nassau	350.00
VIM Insurance	\$0.75 per day x 8 days x 28 people	168.00
Bandanas	For each work crew (4 crews)	20.00
T-shirts	\$20.00 each x 28 people	560.00
Wilderness First Aid Class	\$120 each x 2 people	240.00
Contingency Fund		1,000.00
	Total	34,464.40

Individual Financial Commitment

All team members will be required to turn in a \$200 deposit when signing up in order to reserve a spot on the team. This is due to the large financial commitment the team will have to make for travel reservations months in advance of the trip.

Team members will end up contributing \$400 out-of-pocket unless individual fundraising exceeds the balance for that individual. The team will attempt to raise as much of the remaining \$916 per person as possible, and team members will be responsible for settling any remaining balance as of December 15, 2008.

Monies raised as a part of any fundraiser (either organized by the team or initiated individually) will be credited toward the total obligation for each individual involved in the specific fundraiser. This will ensure a fair distribution of the funds based on each member's participation.

Basic Itinerary

While details will have to be flexible at all times up to and during the trip, we do have a general idea of what we want to do.

December 27, 2008	Take a morning flight to Nassau in The Bahamas. Explore Nassau, including having lunch and dinner. Stay at a local church for the night.
December 28, 2008	Attend church in the morning. Get lunch and return to the airport to take the afternoon flight to Eleuthera (Governor's Harbour).
December 29, 2008	Work day.
December 30, 2008	Work day.
December 31, 2008	Work day. Attend a watch night service for New Year's Eve.
January 1, 2009	New Year's Day. No work allowed. Island tour.
January 2, 2009	Work day.
January 3, 2009	Fly to Nassau in the morning and then home in the afternoon.

Schedule

March 2008	Receive official sanction from Missions Team and Ad Council Hold initial planning meeting Select and delegate fundraisers
April-August 2008	Submit applications for U.S. Passports (http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html) Signup on CUMC and BMH covenant sheets and submit \$200 deposit (non-refundable) to secure a spot on the team Make flight and other travel arrangements Hold meetings and fundraisers Schedule all required training
June 1, 2008	Absolute last day to sign up for the trip (if spots are not full)
September 2008	Application due to BMH (includes \$100 group fee and \$100 non-refundable volunteer fee deposit per person)

October 2008 Second payment (Volunteer Fee Deposit 2) due to BMH
December 17, 2008 Participant balance due to CUMC (Total per-person cost minus fundraiser money allocated to participant)
December 28, 2008 Final payment (Volunteer Fee Balance) due to BMH upon arrival

Policy Requirements

Effective September 30, 2007, all travelers *must* have a valid passport per U.S. Department of State requirements for re-entering the United States from The Bahamas. You will not be able to re-enter using a driver's license and birth certificate. **APPLY FOR A PASSPORT NOW!!!**

Age Requirements

Youth *must* in the 9th grade or higher as of Dec 2008 in order to participate in this trip.

Camp Symonette



(In January 2003, CUMC's youth mission team erected this cross at Camp Symonette. The inscription on the cross says "Holy Ground." On the island, there is a common understanding that nothing bad is to happen at holy places. God and the local people keep a watchful eye over Camp Symonette and the volunteers that stay there.)