



2012 GEMS' Adult, Short-Term Mission Trip Opportunity

Destination: Chongwe Village, Zambia

Who is eligible to go?

Anyone with a heart for:

Honoring God – saying, “Here am I, Lord, send me.”

Truly serving others

Meeting, helping, and encouraging children, youth, and adults from a vastly different culture

Working alongside Zambian workers to help build the Esther School – a school for orphan and under-resourced children in Chongwe, Zambia

Anyone with a willingness and ability to:

Work hard to bring a future and a hope to children

Meet people and make many new friends

Build unity and help establish koininia among team members as you pray and study God’s Word together

Sleep on bunk beds and share close living quarters

Anyone over the age of:

18 and physically able to keep up with the rigorous demands of living and working in a developing country (*Note: It is possible that in future years, students accompanied by parents may be eligible for missions trips to the Esther School.*)

What are the dates of the trip?

February 25 – March 8 (these dates may change by one or two days on one or the other end of the time frame depending on seat availability for entire team)

What will we be doing?

Working on the **house/duplex for the administrators that will be moving to Zambia in June, or working on finishing the interior of the library/clinic.** You will be involved in one or more of the following activities: laying brick, plumbing, wiring, framing or finish carpentry, installing windows, clearing land, planting the orchard, painting, cleaning, or any other task as assigned by the team leader. So willing, hard-working hands are what is needed! In addition, you will have opportunity to meet some of the children living in the village that may one day be attending The Esther School, read to them, play games w/them, and share your love of God with them.

Each and every day you will begin and end your day with members of your team – praying together, processing your experience, and allowing God to speak to you from His Word.

Throughout your stay you will be living at The Esther School in Chongwe in the Faculty House. You will have the opportunity to worship in an African church, visit an African GEMS Club, and visit the cultural village for souvenirs during your stay. Toward the end of your time in Zambia, you will travel to Chaminuka Lodge and Game Reserve. Here you will experience a game drive at a wildlife park and see African animals in their natural habitat – up close and personal! The day will end with a lovely, relaxing meal as you take in the beauty of this African lodge.

A typical daily schedule includes the following:

Monday through Saturday

6:00-6:30 a.m. Wake up

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

7:45 a.m. Devotions and prayer

8:15 a.m. Work begins alongside Zambian workers

12:00 p.m. Prayer and Lunch

1:00 p.m. Return to work (will include some time with children in village)

5:00 p.m. Showers and down time

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. Evening devotions, prayer, sharing God sightings and daily experiences

10:00 or 11:00 p.m. Lights out

Where will we stay?

In Chongwe, you will be staying in the first of several faculty houses planned for the Esther School – a comfortable home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, plus sinks in each bedroom. Electricity is provided via solar power. A computer will be available for emailing home; however, internet service will be very limited. (We still await funding for satellite service). Cooking will be provided by local Zambian women for all meals in Chongwe.

In Lusaka, you will stay one night - the night before your departure from Zambia – so that early morning flight connections can be made w/ease.

Will my group be split up?

Yes and no. For the work days in Chongwe, it is likely that members of the team will be assigned to different tasks. However, for daily devotions and prayer, for meals, and for the trip to Chaminuka, team members will be together.

What will I need to bring?

You will receive a packing list once you are officially registered for the trip, but for now you can plan to bring older work clothes suitable for February-March **mild and**

occasionally rainy weather, low 60's to low 80's Fahrenheit, 16.5°- 26.5° Celsius. Comfortable work boots w/waterproofing and walking shoes are important. A warm jacket may be needed. You'll want to dress in layers as evenings may get chilly (and there is no heat in any of the buildings) but by mid morning the sun has warmed everything up. Women should plan to wear long skirts for church and if going into town. Jeans or pants are OK for working at the school. Modest dress is required at all times. Men will need work t-shirts and jeans as well and casual pants and a nicer shirt for church. Opportunities will exist for hand washing clothes so bringing fresh clothes for each day is not needed or advised.

Plan to bring lots of smiles and hugs for the children, but NOT toys and gifts. We know this is difficult to hear, but toys reinforce unhelpful stereotypes. A list of books and games that will be kept at the Esther School will be included with your packing list. So if you want to bring things, please check this list.

What do I need to know about traveling internationally?

Traveling internationally for long distances is definitely not for those that grow weary easily! Dress comfortably and in layers. Overnight flights can be very chilly. We will have a long layover in London on the way there, and for those interested, a trip into London via The Tube (train) for a couple of hours will likely be possible – these **costs are not included** in package. Jackets are usually needed for this outing. We will need to stay in London overnight on the return flight. Costs for this lodging are **included**, and reservations will be made.

Passports are, of course, **required**. It is a good idea to make three extra copies of your passport – one to leave at home, one to keep with you, but in a different location than near your passport. **Visas are purchased upon arrival at the airport** and range in price from \$50-\$150. (This may depend upon the day or the person issuing the visa!) Be prepared to pay this money in US dollars – larger bills preferred, meaning \$50 -\$100 bills only. **This fee is not included** in the cost paid to GEMS for the trip.

What is the cost?

Your costs are TAX DEDUCTIBLE, and are listed in two parts:

Airfare: \$1,500 - \$2,900 (currently the cost is around \$1500)

- Round trip airfare from Toronto to Zambia or from Chicago to Zambia (select airport nearest to you). Flights from these airports will be arranged by GEMS through a missionary travel agency. (Oftentimes fares are discounted through this agency + flying missionary status allows us to check three bags at no extra expense.) The price range listed is based on recent projection of flight costs.

The sooner flights are booked, the cheaper they usually are. **Your flight will be booked as soon as a \$500 non-refundable Airfare Deposit is received. This deposit is due by December 15. The remaining cost for your flight will be due by January 15, 2012.**

Accommodations and Travel: Food, lodging, bus transportation, game drive, plus donation to Esther School ∞ \$1,500

- All meals while in Zambia (meals while traveling to and from Zambia are your own expense)
- Lodging in the new faculty house located at the school
- Lodging in Lusaka, night before departure
- Transportation to/from airport; to/from Lusaka; to/from Chongwe
- \$500 p/p donation to the Esther School
- Game drive through *Chaminuka Game Reserve*
- T-shirt

A \$200 non-refundable Accomodations Deposit is due upon registration by December 15 followed by \$1,300 due by February 1, 2012.

The cost for the game drive and dinner is included in the package price along w/return flight lodging in London. Spending money for souvenirs from the cultural village, for church offerings, for visa, and for any other purposes you must provide.

How to Register

Registration for the trip is open now. To register, complete the attached registration form, and mail to: *Zambian Mission Trip, GEMS Girls' Clubs, PO Box 7259, Grand Rapids, MI, 49510*; or send via fax: 616 241 5558; or email to: jan@gemsgc.org . Registration payment must be made in US dollars. A total of **\$700 is required** as a deposit to reserve space for the February 2012 trip. \$500 will be subtracted from the total costs of your airfare. And \$200 will be subtracted from the total costs of your accommodations and transportation. **Please keep in mind that *the sooner we receive your deposit, the sooner we book your flight which generally reduces airfare costs.*** GEMS accepts checks, money orders, Visa, Mastercard, or Discover payments in US funds only.

NOTE: Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. A total of 15 spots are available for this trip.

Payment dates in review:

ASAP and before December 15 - \$700 non-refundable registration deposit (\$500 toward cost of airfare and \$200 toward cost of accommodations and transportation)

January 15 – remaining flight costs

February 1 – remaining accommodations/transportation/donation cost = \$1,300

What if I need to cancel?

Please be advised that **no refunds** will be possible. **Flight arrangements will be made upon receipt of the \$700 deposit.** All other arrangements for the trip will be made upon receipt of the remaining funds needed.

Extreme Weather or Disaster Cancellation

If GEMS is unable to host an event due to extreme weather conditions or a national or international disaster, deposits cannot be refunded. If full payment has been made, refunds will again not be possible unless the properties and/or locations refund GEMS for these costs.

Smoking and Alcoholic Beverage Use Policy

GEMS maintains a no smoking and no alcoholic beverage use policy for the entire trip.

For More Information

For more information or to find the travel requirements for non-U.S./Canadian Citizens, visit:

Canada Border Services Agency – www.cbsa.gc.ca

Foreign Affairs Canada – www.voyage.gc.ca

U.S. State Department – www.travel.state.gov

U.S. Customs and Border Protection – <http://cbp.gov/>

www.gemsgc.org , click on GEMS in Zambia