

# Why Should I Serve Abroad?

Have you considered a global learning experience, but aren't sure if it's right for you? If you ask anyone who has served abroad, they will most certainly tell you that it is a life-changing experience and one of the most rewarding things they have ever done. Below are some excellent reasons why you should volunteer abroad:

## **Expand your world view**

Those who travel abroad return home with an informed and less biased perspective toward other cultures and people. Cultural differences extend beyond language, food, appearances, and personal habits. They include perceptions, beliefs, and values that influence one's way of life and world view. People who experience cultural differences first-hand can grow to truly understand where other cultures are coming from.

## **Develop skills that a classroom setting cannot provide**

Being immersed in an entirely new cultural setting is scary at first, but it's also exciting. It's an opportunity to discover new strengths and abilities, conquer challenges, and solve problems. As you encounter situations that are unfamiliar, you will learn to adapt and respond in effective ways.

## **Learn about yourself**

Those who serve or study abroad return home with new ideas and perspectives about themselves and their own culture as well as a strengthened belief system.

## **Make friends from around the world**

While abroad, you will meet native Ethiopians as well as volunteers who have traveled as far away from home as you have.

## **Enhance your employment opportunities**

Did you know that students who study abroad are twice as likely to find employment and they out-earn their peers by nearly 20%? A student who has served abroad is self-motivated, independent, willing to embrace challenges, and able to cope with diverse problems and situations. Your experience negotiating another culture in a foreign country will set you apart from other job applicants.

Volunteering abroad also offers a great opportunity to break out of your routine!



# Ethiopia, Africa



## Mission Trips & Internships



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Impact Your Life While  
Impacting Others - You Will  
Never be the Same!



## MISSION TRIPS

### PROGRAM LENGTH: 2 - 12 weeks

Standard trips are two weeks in length but can be extended up to 12 weeks.

### MINISTRY WORK: Various Activities & Flexible Hours

Mission trips focus on ministry opportunities that best fit the team or individual. Working through local churches in Ethiopia and through the BCI Academy, missionaries work on a variety of projects, such as home visits, activity days, VBS, teaching English, construction, medical or dental clinics, sports programs, working at the school and tutoring.

### HOUSING & FOOD: Guest House (shared room)

Accommodations are in the BCI Guest House with other team members. They are clean and comfortable with a modern toilet, running water, wi-fi and electricity. Teams prepare meals, which are served family-style.

### COST OF PROGRAM: \$3,395 (includes airfare)

Cost includes airfare from a major US international airport, meals, lodging, airport pickup in Ethiopia, local transport, translators, taxes, and tips. Additional time can be added to the trip at a cost of \$295 per week, up to a total of 12 weeks.

Each trip fee includes \$100 in project funds. If you wish to participate in additional projects, such as home repairs, medical care and children's camps, you will need to bring funding from home to support these projects.

### REQUIREMENTS: Minimal

Mission trips are open to mature and resourceful individuals who exhibit a commitment to ministry and community participation.

Successful volunteers are those who are willing to step out of their comfort zone and be used where needed. It is essential that volunteers be flexible, open-minded, and capable of adapting to new situations. A positive attitude, even in frustrating or difficult circumstances, is vital.

## FOCUS: FLEXIBILITY

## APPLY TODAY!

Trip applications are due 120 days in advance. For applications received closer to the departure date, we will do all that we can to make your trip possible; however, travel arrangements become increasingly difficult closer to the trip departure date. We recommend submitting an application as soon as you have made the decision to go.

1. Submit your application with application fee of \$40 USD. Upon receipt, your references will be checked. If accepted, you will be mailed an acceptance letter and payment coupons within approximately 2-3 weeks. You can download an application from [www.BlessingTheChildren.org](http://www.BlessingTheChildren.org) or request an application by phone or e-mail.
2. Check that you have a valid passport with at least 3 blank pages. Your passport should be valid for at least 6 months beyond your scheduled departure date.
3. Obtain a Visa to enter Ethiopia. You should request a multi-entry Tourist Visa from the Ethiopian Embassy before departing for your trip. Allow at least 30 days.
4. Visit a doctor to determine any shots or medications needed for your trip.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Y Can I serve as a career missionary?

We are currently accepting missionaries for trips of up to 12 weeks.

### Y If my family comes along, can we get a discount?

Discounts are available to families of 3 or more. Please see our Team and Missionary policies.

### Y Are there age requirements for missionaries?

Trips are open to all ages. Chaperones are required for volunteers under 18.

To learn more call 888-269-2719 or visit our website:  
<http://www.BlessingtheChildren.org/>

### PROGRAM LENGTH: 6 - 15 weeks

Standard internships are 6 weeks, 9 weeks, and 15 weeks, although we can customize your service as your schedule permits. It is preferred to start internships following major breaks according to the Ethiopian school calendar. The best start dates for internships are around:

September 11th, November 1st, January 10th, March 4th and May 6th.

### MINISTRY WORK: Schedule varies, 20-40 hours/week

Internships provide hands-on experience in various fields according to the internship type. Interns work primarily during the week, with weekends off for sightseeing and relaxation.

### Teaching - At our school, the BCI Academy (core subjects, English, sports)

### Social Work - Work hand-in-hand with BCI Ethiopian social workers

### Medical - Work in local clinics to help the sick

### HOUSING & FOOD: Guest House (private room)

Accommodations are a private room in the BCI Guest House. The rooms are clean and comfortable with a modern toilet, running water, wi-fi and electricity. Missionaries and interns prepare meals, which are served family-style.

### COST OF PROGRAM: Starting at \$4,880 (includes airfare)

Cost includes airfare from a major US international airport, meals, lodging, airport pickup in Ethiopia, local transport, translators, taxes, and tips.

Each trip fee includes \$100 in project funds. You will need to bring supplies and funding for additional projects you would like to work on, such as craft supplies for VBS, books to read to the children, or vitamins to distribute.

### REQUIREMENTS: Moderate

In addition to the requirements listed under Mission Trips, internships are more structured and require a stronger work ethic. Interns must be self-motivated and committed to learning and to being effective.

## FOCUS: EFFECTIVE MINISTRY