

CMS SHORT TERM MISSION TEAMS 2007



short term mission
step into someone else's shoes

Are you willing to face the uncertainty of stepping into another culture and to learn from the lives of Christians there? Are you willing to be inspired, challenged and changed and to grow in your faith? In order to connect more deeply with our brothers and sisters in the multi-cultural Body of Christ we need to step into another's shoes and step out of our own, to risk being vulnerable, and to see things from another's perspective.

By joining a CMS short-term mission team you will have an opportunity to connect with Christians who are seeking to make a difference in often challenging situations around the world. We seek to nurture pilgrims, not tourists, through team experiences which enable people to get behind the headlines of another country's news and find out more about what is going on at a grass roots level. Each visit allows participants to be immersed within a different culture for a brief but intensive period with the opportunity to reflect upon and learn from the experience.

Who can join a team?

Christians who have a spirit of adventure; who are fascinated by other countries and cultures; who are keen to get more than a tourist's view of a country; who are interested in seeing how being a follower of Jesus works out in other places; and who are interested to learn from the experience of Christians throughout the world. CMS coordinate visits for different age groups: 18-30 and 25+ (no upper limit so long as you are fit). We can also tailor experiences for church (including youth groups age 16+) and university groups.

Who will I go with?

You will be part of a group of up to 12 people. All teams have a leader with experience of working in a mission context within another culture.

What will I do?

Each visit provides an opportunity to share in the lives, worship and witness of Christians in another culture, seeing and learning about mission at a grassroots level. The activities with which a group engage will vary depending on the type of visit, the age group and the duration.

18-30s and youth groups

Where these visits are for 3 weeks or more, we try to give you a blend of experience: part of the visit may be a practical, hands-on activity, and part is about experiencing and learning more of the culture you are in. Previous teams have been asked to teach English, run youth and children's activities, get involved in rural development, decorate an orphanage, assist in prison ministry, participate in exposure visits to see mission in different contexts, and more. We encourage teams to go with an attitude primarily to learn from our hosts, rather than the attitude of doing something for them or giving something to them. Your hosts aim to provide opportunities for you to interact with local people, enabling you to build relationships to make this a more meaningful experience for both you and them.

25+

These visits are usually 2 weeks in length and teams may have a diverse age group of people. The focus of these visits is interacting with local people, learning and reflecting. The teams are not task or work groups. You will have the opportunity to visit a variety of projects, meeting people and learning about what is happening in mission at a grassroots level. A couple of days are usually allocated for relaxation, and an opportunity to see sights of historical and cultural interest. Time is made for teams to meet together daily, where possible, for prayer and reflection.

All our teams are hosted by local people and the local church and our longer term aim is to develop and sustain these relationships. Our mission is to encourage the church in its mission and to allow you to discover more of what it means to be a part of a global family.

continued overleaf

What preparation is provided?

Our briefing programme helps you to explore cross-cultural situations sensitively and effectively, allowing you to engage more deeply with the issues of cross-cultural mission. Briefing is conducted as follows for the different groups:

18-30s and youth groups

Visits for these groups usually take place during the summer, and participants attend two training weekends (usually held in April and June). The first weekend is an opportunity to meet your team and explore the aims of short-term visits, the biblical basis for mission, cross-culture issues, the gospel and culture, living with a diversity of views, communicating your experience and various practicalities involved with your overseas visit. It is an opportunity to meet with other teams too. The second weekend, when you meet with just your team, is an opportunity to be specifically briefed for the location you will be visiting and make any necessary preparations. You will be provided with medical advice, a kit list and any other material that will aid you in your preparations. Each training component will help to further build your skills base as you develop greater cross-cultural awareness, understanding of cross-cultural mission, team building and communication skills.

25+

A briefing day is held for each team a few weeks prior to the visit taking place. This is an opportunity to meet your team members and leader, to explore cross-cultural issues, and to be briefed with regard to all aspects of the visit.

What happens after the visit?

It is important that you have an opportunity to reflect upon and apply what you have learnt from your cross-cultural visit. All participants therefore attend debriefing days. For the 18-30 teams and youth groups, a debriefing weekend is held in early September. For all other teams, a debriefing day is held a few weeks after returning from the visit. You will have opportunities to reflect further on your cross-cultural experience so that you can apply what you have learnt to other mission situations, and we seek to encourage and equip you to share your experience and learning with your home church and elsewhere. There is also an opportunity to reflect on how your experience connects with your own lifestyle, and to consider your ongoing involvement in mission, both locally and globally.

How much will I have to raise?

£950 - £1600. Costs vary depending on location and length of visit, and include the briefing and debriefing days and accompanying resources, visa, health information and your cross-cultural team visit (flight, in-country travel, accommodation and meals). Your travel costs to briefing/debriefing days, travel insurance, medical/vaccination costs and spending money are not included. Travel in these regions is at participants' own risk and participants are required to obtain their own travel insurance. CMS can provide fundraising ideas and advice.

How do I join a team?

Complete and return an application form along with a deposit for £100. Please make cheques payable to the Church Mission Society. Further payments are made in instalments, allowing you time to raise funds. The closing date for summer teams is 1 March 2007, but the earlier you apply the more helpful it is to us, and the more likely you are to secure a place on a team. CMS will then contact your referees and send you a medical form to complete. Participants aged 65+ will be required to visit their doctor and have an additional health form completed.

GHANA

18 - 30



This visit takes place in a year that marks the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade, presenting an opportunity to encounter Ghana's rich and troubled history, to examine issues of human rights, justice and freedom, and meet with young Christians who are engaging in mission today.

Formerly known as the Gold Coast, this beautiful, vibrant West African country has been repeatedly plundered, beginning with the Portuguese who came in search of gold which they found in abundance. Forts and castles were built along the coast to protect their interest and investments, soon attracting other traders: the Dutch, the Danes and the British. Yet it was the slave trade that turned out to be the real investment, and thousands of slaves were taken in each year. All four nations competed to control the trade as they built castles and captured those of their rivals. Later on, British interest extended to governance and thus began the institution of colonial rule under various governors. It was fiercely resisted by the various kingdoms, in particular the Ashanti, but British weaponry assured the establishment of British rule.

The short-term team are visiting Ghana at a historic moment in time, for 2007 marks 200 years since a parliamentary act was passed to abolish Britain's involvement in the transatlantic slave trade – the forced transportation of Africans from their continent to the British colonies in the Americas. 2007 also marks the 50th anniversary of Ghana's independence from British rule - Ghana was the first black African nation to gain independence from its colonisers. This visit offers a significant opportunity to explore and learn about the relationship that existed between the Church and state and the role that the Church played in the slave trade. The first few days of the team's programme will be spent in Cape Coast for orientation, exploring these issues and visiting the slave castles.

The visit also provides an opportunity to meet, engage with, encourage and be inspired by young Christians from across the country. The team have been invited to join the National Youth Camp in Kumasi, the first ever 'national' camp for young Christians (ages 16-35) within the Anglican Church which is seeking to build a youth momentum for mission. The team will join in a range of activities – bible study, discussion groups, sports, games, visits etc – and will have the opportunity to prepare and lead some of these activities in the camp programme.

Afterwards, the team will travel with some of the young people from the camp to their own towns, engaging in local activities and seeing grassroots mission. A final time of reflection and rest will be spent in the capital, Accra, before returning home.

The team will stay in simple camp style and guesthouse accommodation, and there may be opportunity to stay with host families.

DATE: 23 July – 15 August 2007

COST: £1450

ROMANIA

18 - 30



Encounter the evangelistic and social ministries of the Orthodox Church in a country that is known in Western Europe as the home of the Dracula legend and for the enormity of what it has suffered under the Communist regime of Nicolae Ceausescu. Since the revolution of 1989 the country has been struggling to rebuild and most people remain as poor as they were under Communism, yet you will have the opportunity to see ways in which the Church is today developing mission in a post-communist context.

Christianity was brought to Romania by St Andrew who, it is believed, preached in the south and west of the country, then Greek missionaries came at the end of the 1st century, and Roman soldiers in the 2nd and 3rd centuries. Today, the Church in Romania is one of the few organisations tackling the country's social problems. During the Communist era, the Church suffered division and a breakdown of trust between denominations. Some churches went underground, while others were perceived to compromise their position in relation to the State. Now the rifts are slowly healing and many ecumenical initiatives are taking place. CMS has been working in partnership with Orthodox, Baptist and Pentecostal Churches since 1991. Together we have been encouraging ecumenical mission, mostly expressed through serving the poorest in society.

The short-term team will spend part of this visit getting involved in the work of one of the 'Diaconia' (Christian service) ministries of the Romanian Orthodox church in Bucharest. These social ministries seek to serve the poorest in society through projects like the Barnabas House in Bucharest, providing hot meals and a medical consultancy, and the Sfanta Macrina residential and day centre that provides social, educational, medical, and counselling support to street children, as well as job counselling and life skills training for young adults who grew up in group homes or institutions.

The team will also spend a week at a student camp run by 'Oastea Domnului' (the Lord's Army), a renewal movement in the Orthodox Church. The Lord's Army began in 1926 and Lord's Army members continued to meet in secret when the organisation was banned by the Communist authorities in 1948. Since the fall of Communism in 1989 they have had to learn how to use their unfamiliar freedom and have taken up new opportunities with fresh vigour. These include setting up publishing houses, forming Bible study groups, running summer camps, training local leaders, and setting up the Prison Fellowship.

The student camp which the team will join is focussed on teaching, encouraging and equipping the new generation of young Lord's Army leaders to look 'outside the box' and see evangelism as going out to others and building friendships. Our partners are keen for you to come and encourage these students in their mission by sharing stories and testimonies, and engaging in various activities together. This visit will also be a great opportunity to learn about the Orthodox Church, including the challenges and the opportunities facing young adult Orthodox Christians who are seeking to bring renewal within the Church.

The camp will be in both English and Romanian, so the ability to speak Romanian is not a necessity. The team will stay in simple camp style and guesthouse accommodation throughout the visit.

DATE: 20 July – 11 August 2007

COST: £950

RUSSIA

18+ (no upper limit)



You will visit Izhod, a new emerging Pentecostal Christian Community aiming to set people free from the slavery of drug addiction. Alongside this experience you will meet Orthodox Christians developing mission to engage with Russia in a post communist context. This visit is an opportunity to encounter Russia's deep, rich cultural history and discover more about this key player on the world stage with a resurgent economy, immense natural resources and vast territory.

For 70 years Russia was a Communist state where atheism was enforced. Christians in Russia faced routine harassment, discrimination and sometimes long imprisonment or psychiatric treatment. The Church was forced underground and many aspects of church life disappeared completely, but there were also many Christians who showed remarkable Christian witness in the face of persecution. As Russia emerges into a new phase of national identity CMS is working with national Christians, training and encouraging the Church in its major mission challenge.

This short-term team visit is an opportunity to see the work of CMS partner Izhod (which means exodus), a Pentecostal-run drug rehabilitation project which has transformed the lives of many drug addicts and their families. An estimated 500-700 recovering addicts are being cared for at any time in more than 20 centres which now include working with Russian addicts in the USA and UK.

Olga, 26, testifies to the transformation she has experienced as a result of joining an Izhod centre. She started taking drugs at the age of 12 and had struggled to kick the habit, even when her daughter was born 2 years ago. When she was living in Moscow she met someone who was already at an Izhod centre: 'I realized it was the only choice if I wanted to live', she states.

She admits that it wasn't all plain sailing. 'I was tempted to leave but I realized there was nothing to go back to – only death. I also stayed for the sake of my daughter because I didn't want her to be the daughter of a drug addict.' But nine months after being at an Izhod centre she says 'I experienced that there is indeed freedom that can only be given by God. My life has been transformed ... And I know that I want to stay with God. I've never had anything like this before – this love.'

The team will travel to Moscow and then to southern Russia to Krasnodar and/or Rostov to visit Izhod rehabilitation centres and meet with recovering addicts like Olga. Team members will share in the life of these centres: meeting, sharing, praying and encouraging those who are in recovery, and assisting in practical ways. The team will also visit Izhod churches and have an opportunity to meet, learn from and share with the pastors and leaders.

The team will also visit a CMS Orthodox partner organization in Moscow and have the opportunity to learn something about the Orthodox tradition and how Orthodox Christians are engaging in grass-roots mission. CMS has been working with Orthodox Churches since the mid-nineteenth century and was well placed to engage sensitively with them when the USSR broke up in 1991. We have particularly supported the Orthodox Church in developing mission and training. Today, CMS is able to draw people together and develop networks that prove useful to our partners; links with the Church in Britain are growing and more people are interested in this ancient Orthodox tradition. You will also encounter Russia's rich cultural history in visits to sights of historic and cultural interest in Moscow before returning home.

The team will stay in standard guesthouse accommodation and with host families, and translators will be made available to help the group throughout the visit. There are six places on this team.

DATE: 15 – 30 July 2007
COST: £1100

BURUNDI

25+



This experience will take you to the beautiful country of Burundi which is one of the smallest and poorest countries in Africa, yet it has great agricultural potential and an abundance of flora and fauna. You will receive a very hospitable welcome and be challenged by how Burundian Christians respond to the massive challenges they face.

Burundi was ranked last position (178) compared to Britain (41), in the first ever survey of 'world happiness' produced in July 2006 by Adrian White an Analytic Social Psychologist from the University of Lancaster. But are the people of Burundi really the unhappiest people on earth? Why not come and find out!

As the Church of Burundi responds to contemporary mission challenges, Mid-Africa Ministry - now integrated with CMS - continues to support valued work in education, health and evangelism. Currently, CMS supports the Diocesan Bible Schools and Provincial Theological College at Matana, and the training of Burundi pastors at other institutions. Recently mission partners Roger and Miranda Bowen worked at Matana as theological tutor and in management and HIV/Aids work. Sheena McBain is a mission partner in Bujumbura Diocese serving as a nurse at Shombo health centre and Simon and Lizzie Guillebaud, members of CMS' Salt Fellowship, are involved in innovative evangelism work with Scripture Union in Bujumbura Diocese. Linking with partners REMA in Bujumbura, CMS also supports reconciliation and returning refugees.

Burundi, like Rwanda, was granted independence from Belgium in 1962. In 1972 a rebellion saw 200,000 people killed and tens of thousands more flee to neighbouring countries. This was the first of many waves of refugees from Burundi, many of whom are still in camps in Tanzania today. In 1993 the country was plunged into civil war after the death of a newly appointed Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye. Over the next 10 years, the civil war claimed an estimated 300,000 lives, created 300,000 internally displaced persons and 400,000 refugees to other countries. In 1999 more violence erupted between Hutu guerrillas and the Burundian army. A peace accord was signed by several factions in 2001 and Burundi has recently benefited from some debt relief as a result of the G8 summit.

In this country which has suffered such trauma, people are getting on with the task of reconstructing their country's infrastructure and communities. This visit is an opportunity to meet Christians who are playing their part in making a difference where they are and you will get a better understanding of mission and the realities of what it means to be a Christian today in Burundi. You will spend time meeting with Christians and visiting churches and projects in Gitega Diocese, as well as spending a short time in the capital of Bujumbura meeting with Simon and Lizzie Guillebaud and hearing of the work of REMA Ministries. The team will be accommodated in modest guesthouse accommodation.

DATE: 30 June to 14 July 2007

COST: £1600

the Philippines

25+



This experience will take you to the vast urban conurbation of Metro Manila, the capital of the multi-island state of the Philippines on the largest island of Luzon. Much of the Philippines consists of palm fringed islands surrounded by blue sea and bathed in sunshine; the coastline is a haunt for scuba divers as the seas teem with tropical fish. Yet behind this idyllic image lies much poverty and destitution both in the countryside and the cities.

The Philippines have a strong Christian heritage as a result of their colonisation by the Spanish. Many Filipinos would regard themselves as Catholics, although there is a strong presence of Muslims in the southern islands. In recent times there have been conflicts between these two religious groups. In cities and towns there are Protestant churches of every type, including an influential home grown denomination. The Episcopal (Anglican) church is relatively small and mainly on Luzon.

People seeking to escape from rural poverty head for the cities in the hope of work and a better future and thousands upon thousands of them find themselves living in squatter areas or permanently camping on the side of a street or beside railway lines, under whatever shelter they can acquire from other people's rubbish. In these dwellings children are raised without enough food, basic sanitation, access to medical care or the opportunity to attend school.

Because of resistance to birth control families are large and children, usually girls, may even be sold into slave labour or prostitution. Working with children with this level of vulnerability can be extremely challenging and sometimes dangerous.

Three groups of CMS mission partners work with Episcopal Church of the Philippines, based in Manila and in Cebu City on the smaller island of Cebu. This visit is an opportunity to see the work of mission partners Kate and Tim Lee who arrived in Manila in 2003 to work alongside Living Streams, a number of church plants loosely connected with the Anglican church in Singapore, with the vision of reaching out to the children in slums, squatter camps and on the streets by providing Kids Clubs – safe places for children to play, to sing and to learn about Jesus. Tim and Kate, with their three young children Rebekah, James and Grace, have developed the Kids Clubs work into Jigsaw Kids Ministries. As they discovered the needs of the children in the four areas where the Kids Clubs have been established, they have developed school sponsorship, a feeding programme, homework facilities, and Bible classes and they are now planning to develop literacy classes. They have also been committed to training local people in the leadership and day to day running of the clubs and other programmes.

This visit will give you an opportunity to visit the Kids Clubs in different venues; experience other parts of the Jigsaw programme; discover something about the different churches and mission groups in Manila, including Sunday worship at local churches; see some of the interesting and historical parts of Manila; encourage Kate and Tim Lee in their work; and reflect on the work you have seen being carried out in areas of extreme poverty and what it means to be a committed Christian in a deprived part of a vast Asian city. You will join a group from the link churches supporting Tim and Kate Lee, and others who are interested in work amongst children living in poverty. Your group will be led by Diana Wild, former CMS mission partner in Singapore, who has experience of visiting the Philippines.

DATE: 1 – 15 November 2007

COST: £1300 - £1500

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What have past participants said?

'It's a great way to see Christianity lived in a different context. Your perception of the world will change, but for the better. It changed my life because it enabled me to see what God was doing somewhere else in the world and, as a result, it challenged me to think about how I could actively engage in God's kingdom on an international as well as local level.'

Dione Mcdonald, youth group team leader, Romania.

'It is an incredibly worthwhile thing to do and an amazing experience. It's not just about helping other people, it is about meeting people from other cultures and learning from them. It is something I would really advise everyone to do at least once in their lifetime.'

Katie, youth group team, Rwanda.

'It's well worth while! Excellent whether you go knowing nothing or have some overseas experience. Don't go with preconceived ideas; be open-minded. You'll get far more than you'll be able to give.'

John, 25+ team, Rwanda.

'It gives you the opportunity you would never get as a tourist to meet local Christians, to share in their lives and to learn from their faith. We met the real people behind the news headlines, which made it a unique, exciting and eye-opening experience.'

Susie, 18-30 team, Israel-Palestine.

'A very valuable insight into practical Christian witness ... the visit has deepened my own faith and hopefully broadened my perspectives.'

Bob, 25+ tailor-made visit, Pakistan.

'An excellent way to refresh your Christian life, and to learn more about yourself and what God is calling you to do.'

Linda, 25+ tailor-made visit, Pakistan.

CMS has adopted the **Global Connections** code of best practice in short-term mission.

The goal of the code is to help short-term mission programme coordinators work toward excellence in all aspect of their programmes.

The information in this pack may be subject to change. Dates and prices of visits are provisional and may vary. Applicants will be kept informed should a change arise.

We very much hope you are interested in being part of a CMS short-term mission team. For further information please email debbie.james@cms-uk.org or phone **020 7803 3326** or visit www.cms-uk.org.