

African Mission: Short-Term Missionary Program

3-weeks to 6-months

The Bismack Mission welcomes people who have a desire to ‘come and see’ the Mission and share in its life on a short-term basis (three weeks up to six months). An opportunity to experience a different culture. Our Mission is located near Kissi, in Kenya East Africa, near the equator, in beautiful highlands surrounded by fields of tea.

Over the years you may have read articles in the Dakota Catholic Action and watched the videos at church when it was time for the annual African Mission Appeal. Those avenues for learning about and supporting the Mission are very good but now the possibility exists for volunteers to actually travel to Kenya and experience the Mission on a short-term basis – an opportunity to be the hands, feet, and voice of Christ in Kenya by serving our brothers and sisters through the various programs administered by the Mission. It is also an opportunity to allow yourself to be shaped and formed by people of deep faith who live in poverty.

God’s plans are always better than ours and at times we don’t clearly understand how His handiwork is interwoven in our lives. He provides challenges in our lives and our job is to identify them and meet and accept those challenges, recognizing God’s handiwork. A short-term visit may help you to discern the call to serve in a longer three year term at the Mission. Not many people can make such a long-term commitment for various reasons but for those who can and would like to volunteer for a shorter period of time, the Short-Term Missionary program provides you that opportunity.

There are many ways that one can support the Mission – prayers and financial means to name a few – but it is a privilege and heart warming to witness first – hand the effects, the fruits born, and the hope given because of the generosity of the people in the Bismarck Diocese. You get to see the smiles on the faces of the children and hear their expressions of gratitude when they are given their monthly ration of maize (corn), their stipend, or have their school and uniform fees paid. You will be able to hear the sounds of delighted children when they have achieved higher school grades entitling them to receive a kuku (chicken), a mattress, cooking oil, or other gifts for their Christmas or Easter present. You will experience expressions of gratitude when a family has received supplies to build a simple house or was the recipient of a bred heifer which will eventually provide milk for a family to drink. You will receive warm hugs and firm handshakes when a mama receives a bucket and water filter which will provide safe drinking water for her children or when the Mission has paid a child’s medical care or for a pair of glasses that otherwise could not be afforded. You will see and witness first-hand profound joy in spite of poverty that permeates daily life and also witness the pain that poverty brings which can be very hard. All of these experiences, whether painful or joyful, will help to expand your hearts and minds, and deepen your relationship with God.

We invite you to 'come and see.

For more information on the Short-Term Missionary Program, please contact:

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