



3-Month SOUTH AFRICA IMMERsION

experience **mission**



What is **IMMERSION**?

IMMERSION is an opportunity for young adults (age 18-30) to step outside of the normal cadence of their lives in order to gain a broader picture of: 1) the world around you, 2) the way God works in that world, and 3) the value of relationships and quality service alongside people whose lives are just as valuable as your own.

Simply put, **IMMERSION** is about focusing on the “how we do it” of international ministry and service rather than just “what we do.” Our central focus is on the importance of **authentic relationships** as the keystone to healthy ministry, and engaging in what it means to truly “love our neighbor” as people of privilege in the 21st century.

Teams spend their time equally split between service opportunities, cultural immersion in the community, and relationship building with community partners and host families. This means there is plenty of space to give your time and attention to others—a *necessary part of doing missions well*—prioritizing people over the simply seeking out projects to complete.



SOUTH AFRICA *Partners*



3-Month South Africa IMMERSION teams will be serving in three communities in South Africa alongside local partners and EM Africa Directors, **Hein & Helene van Wyk** (*with team member and grankids above*), and EM Africa support staff, **Danieko & Megan van Wyk** (*above right*).

The van Wyk's are native Namibians, but they have lived and served in South Africa for more than 20 years, holding dual citizenship. They have been working with Experience Mission since 2011, since the very beginning of the IMMERSION program, and now also lead trips



for two-week mission teams in South Africa and Namibia.

Over the years, Hein and Helene have made incredible partnerships all over Southern Africa, including Kairos, where your team will serve and learn for the month.



Location #1

CENTURION/ PRETORIA

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Kairos has many different outreaches and invests in their local community of Pretoria East. Teams connect with school-aged children, serving meals at school, helping at after-school programs, working as teachers' assistants, and more.

Your team will serve with the **food and clothing distribution center**, helping to sort clothing donations and pack food bags to distribute to the communities in need. You may also be involved in working with the elderly and individuals experiencing homelessness.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE*

Monday through Friday, you can expect to volunteer at Kairos from 8:00am to 4:30-5:30pm.

Saturday mornings to **Sunday** afternoons will be spent debriefing at the van Wyk's home, for downtime to relax and be together

as a team and having access to WiFi. The van Wyks love rugby, coffee, and have a swimming pool in their backyard! Pack a swimsuit if you are there in the warmer months (South Africa's seasons are opposite to the US.!)

You may or may not attend a weekly church service on Sundays. This will be determined by the EM Africa staff as they solidify your specific trip itinerary.

HOUSING & ACCOMMODATIONS

You will be staying with local host families in Centurion. All families have been vetted by the van Wyks, and most have hosted participants for 10+ years. Housing accommodations are comfortable, with a bed and a shared bathroom & shower. You may be in a host home with another team member or by yourself.



**Locations and schedules are subject to change*



Location #2

DARLING/ WESTERN CAPE

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Pastor Gert and Evelyn Korah are excited to welcome you into their community, alongside the staff at **Jeria Sending**, the local church and mission organization. The Korah's have been leading the ministry since 2009. Teams are involved in a few different ministries, from volunteering in local schools, helping with the "Good News Club" after school program, and local farm visits to help bring the Good News to those less reached.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE*

Monday through Friday, you can expect to volunteer in local elementary and middle schools, leading a Bible lesson or being a teacher's assistant, which typically goes from 7:30am till 2:30pm. Participants will have many opportunities to share their testimony, teach about the Bible, or even give a short sermon.

Afternoons are spent tutoring or playing games at the Good News Club. Some evenings and **Saturdays** are spent doing farm ministry, and on **Sundays** you will attend church either at Jeria Sending or on a farm.

HOUSING & ACCOMMODATIONS

Team members stay on the property of Jeria Sending. There is space in the church as well as a guest house. Beds are provided, and there is a full kitchen for teams to prepare meals, with bathrooms and showers on-site.

Breakfast and dinner are typically prepared as a team and lunches are packed or served at your ministry area.



**Locations and schedules are subject to change*



Location #3

VASTFONTEIN

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Wessel and Mathilda Fourie are excited to welcome you to Vastfontein and **Batho Pele Christian School**. Wessel and Mathilda run **Vastfontein Community Transformation** which is a registered NPO working to uplift communities through education, agricultural skills, and holistic development. Teams can expect to serve with the school, in the garden, or at the church. Vastfontein Community Transformation and Batho Pele have become central locations for the community of Vastfontein.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE*

Monday through Friday, teams volunteer at the local school, Batho Pele Christian School, from 8AM-4PM. Some days you will be helping in the classroom, some days cooking or doing sporting activities. Past teams have been involved with assemblies, worship,

and Bible skits. Batho Pele also has a community garden that teams will be able to take part in with Kassie (Cah-See), the main IMMERSION connection while in Vastfontein. **Saturday**, the team can plan to have rest and debrief, but this is also a day for excursions or sharing meals with Wessel, Mathilda, and Kassie and their families. On **Sunday** the team will attend church at the church located on Batho Pele's campus. Teams have been involved with Sunday-School prior to the service, worship during the service, and fellowship afterwards. Sunday evening is a time to rest.

HOUSING & ACCOMMODATIONS

Teams stay in a hostel on school property, along with some of the teachers and students. Beds are provided and bathroom facilities are shared but separate for men/women. Wifi is available but can be limited at times.

**Locations and schedules are subject to change*



SAFETY

Measures

Safety is a huge priority for the IMMERSION program! We are up to date on all potential **safety concerns** in the countries where teams volunteer and would never send a team to a location where we have active concerns about their safety and wellbeing.

Experience Mission local staff and partners are **experienced residents** or welcome guests in the communities you are serving in, and they communicate to all team members the **safest way** to move about during their time on the program. Regular communication is also established between partners, team leaders, and EM U.S. Staff, allowing for quick responses to any emergencies should they arise.

For medical issues, IMMERSION team leaders are **CPR/First Aid** certified, and carry **trauma**

medical kits equipped to deal with a wide range of injuries and ailments.

In the case of a larger emergency, EM staff members will **support team members** by helping them communicate with home and making sure they get to a place to receive care.

Often, local **medical clinics** are a short distance from where team members are staying. However, outside of big cities, large hospitals can often be several hours away by vehicle. Team members would not be left to do this on their own.

To ensure medical care is readily accessible, EM secures **travel medical/evacuation insurance** for all team members. Participants are also required to come with a **Personal Emergency Fund**—a debit or

credit card with \$1,500 available and \$300 of reserve cash—in case they were to have a medical issue requiring upfront payment or need to **travel home** from the program unexpectedly. This amount may seem high, but it's purely a precaution. Most team members do not touch their emergency funds while on the trip.

Preventatively, during initial training, all team members are encouraged to enroll with **STEP** (Safe Traveler Enrollment Program) through the U.S. State Department. This allows team members and staff to receive official travel alerts if there is an issue in the region including political protests, civil unrest, increased crime, weather alerts, natural disasters, terrorism, or specific threats for foreign travelers.

An **EM emergency phone line** is also available to all emergency contacts.