



Salem began sending mission teams to Kenya in 2007, and our people fell in love with the country and the people immediately. Kenyans are some of the warmest, most genuine people on the face of the planet! They make visitors feel welcome right away, and you are caused to feel special simply because you traveled so far in order to visit them.



Vision for Africa teams began their mission ministries doing vision clinics, providing eye care in the form of eyeglasses and appointments with a local ophthalmologist. A person might not identify eye care as a particular need for Africa, but consider this: in Kenya, there is only one ophthalmologist for every one million people! That means that the vast majority of people who need eye care (glasses, eye medicines, surgeries) will never receive it.

This effort has been blessed, and so far over 40 congregations, mostly Lutheran churches from Texas, have sent eye teams to the country, earning recognition from the national Ministry of Health. Since that time, other ministries have now begun, including malaria prevention, a rescue center for girls, and an occasional medical mission. Vision for Africa teams work right alongside Kenya team members as we do our work, and deep friendships and partnerships form.



Since traveling to Kenya takes over 24 hours (a stopover in Europe, followed by the final leg), our arrival in Nairobi is followed by a day of rest. A trip to the National Game Park is arranged for the first morning, and new team members get up early to take a guided tour through one of the finest game parks in Africa. Here, almost all the exotic animals you would associate with Kenya are on display in this expansive 45-square mile park. The tour, followed by souvenir shopping and an African worship experience, round out the first day in one of the most beautiful countries on the face of the earth.



On the following day, our team travels to western Kenya to stay in the town of Migori, guests at the Maranatha Guest House. Esther and Grace take good care of us, and we drive from here to the work sites each day.



Our group divides into two teams: the vision team and the malaria team, and two “clinics” will go on simultaneously. No formal education or certification is required to serve on either team, and training/orientation will be done prior to the first day of clinic operations. Vision clinics are set up in a stationary location, and area residents come to the site to receive an eye exam and, if necessary, glasses for either distance or reading. Local ophthalmologists are hired to treat more serious eye issues, and a certain number of patients are referred for cataract surgeries in the local hospital.



Malaria clinics involve going house to house hanging bed nets, dispensing reading glasses, and sharing the gospel in homes.

Because our teams travel to the same locations year after year, we have great relationships with city leaders and churches. We partner with local pastors to present the simple gospel message to people as they enter the clinic, and all of our pastors, Kenyan medical professionals, and team members are encouraged to spend as much time as necessary to give quality spiritual, physical, and emotional care to anyone who comes to the clinic. Over the years we have been blessed with new Kenyan friends and have also witnessed improvements in community health and growth in the Kenyan churches.

Come join our team! We'd love to have you! We work hard, but also have lots of fun and fellowship in the evenings and during break times. Grow in your own faith confidence in serving Jesus by serving others.

For questions, contact Kevin Pieper, Salem Lutheran Church's Minister of Missions and Outreach, at kpieper@salem4u.com.

