

Kenya Project 24
Young Adult Mercy Experience

Purpose and Application

Minnesota North and North Dakota Districts LCMS



This Application is also used for Clergy and Laity who are interested in traveling with the Young Adults (according to 2012 ND District Convention Resolution 3-07).

Please return the Application to Mr. Robert Wurl. Mercy Experience Trips will be scheduled when there are funds available to cover the costs.

 **BACKGROUND**

Partnership between the Evangelical Lutheran Church Kenya (ELCK) and the two LCMS Districts of Minnesota North and North Dakota began with Project 24. After conversation with Bishop Obare, the Bishop of the ELCK, and six men from the United States, Project 24 began. Project 24 is the building of at least 24 orphan rescue centers throughout Kenya. These rescue centers provide shelter, food, clothing, and healthcare for the many orphans of Kenya. Every rescue center is built near a Church and a school; therefore, the children are provided an education and are shaped and formed in the Lutheran Faith.

In recent years, those who began Project 24 and the two district presidents have participated in many discussions concerning our partnership with one another and with ELCK. Born out of these discussions is the “Young Adult Mercy Experience,” support for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, Mercy Trips to Kenya for pastors and the laity, and the building of three rescue centers by the two districts.

Resolutions were brought forward at the district conventions of each district concerning our partnership with ELCK. One such resolution is the “Mary Okeyo Scholarship Fund.” This scholarship fund would provide resources to annually provide young adults with a Project 24/ELCK mercy experience in Kenya Africa.

Those participating in the Young Adult Mercy Experience should be aware of “time” in Kenya. Americans are very aware of the time of day, what needs to be accomplished, and seem to operate out of a certain sense of urgency and quickness. Kenyans are not so much dictated by the clock. The traveler may at times feel impatient, or the need to move on, but the Kenyans are very content in continuing a

conversation or allowing the day's events to unfold as they may. The traveler needs to be very flexible while on a mercy experience trip. Realizing this allows the traveler to take in this aspect of the culture and also to have a more satisfying overall experience.

PURPOSE OF THE YOUNG ADULT MERCY EXPERIENCE

First and foremost, young adults will be given a “mercy experience” in traveling to Kenya Africa. This will include:

1. Giving young adults exposure to the greater Church, especially with brothers and sisters in Christ in Kenya Africa.
2. Learning from and listening to the Kenyans is primarily what will take place on this mercy experience, that is, to learn from the Kenyans on how they teach the faith.
3. Visiting orphan rescue centers to visit with and experience the life of the orphans, pastors, deaconesses, teachers, and laity.
4. Visiting the orphan rescue centers for the opportunity to observe progress being made on the number of rescue centers being built, and especially the progress being made on the rescue centers sponsored by the two districts.
5. Having the experience of teaching a Bible story, leading Children's Bible Club, interacting with the children, teaching in a classroom setting (for the teachers attending), and preaching on Sunday morning (for the pastors traveling with the young adults).
6. Having the experience of Kenyan culture (experience the cities, roads, food, open markets, the people, landscape, smells, etc)
7. Having the opportunity to experience Christians in a different culture other than our own, thus gaining deeper insights into one's own faith and life.
8. Having the opportunity to learn from our Kenyan brothers and sisters in Christ in how they express and live the faith (Children's Bible Club, the ring of fellowship after church, the humble sacrificial offerings of the people, etc)
9. Gaining a greater understanding of mercy (diakonia) in being Christ to His people. Those participating in this experience will gain a greater appreciation of humble service in our witness of Christ to the world.
10. Experiencing the life of the deaconess, especially in joining her on home visits to the elderly, the sick, and the dying. Young Adults will have the opportunity to go into the remote areas of Kenya and witness God's people in their suffering and yet confess a deep faith in Jesus Christ.
11. Assisting in taking supplies and resources to Kenya for the benefit of Project 24 or the ELCK.
12. Participating in devotions and prayer centered in the Word in the context of mercy and the faith-life of the ELCK.

WHAT THE YOUNG ADULT MERCY EXPERIENCE IS NOT

To alleviate any misconceptions or disappointments concerning this Mercy Experience, one should be aware that these mercy trips do not include:

1. Building or constructing rescue centers, homes, churches, etc. The Kenyan people are very capable of building and take great pride in erecting these buildings. It is good to keep in mind that these trips to Kenya are not “mission trips” of sorts, but they are designed to be a mercy experience of learning and listening.
2. Americans traveling to Kenya to be the “superior teachers.” Young adults traveling to Kenya must have a humble attitude that we learn from one another. There are things we can share with the ELCK and there are things they can share with us.

BENEFITS RECEIVED FROM A YOUNG ADULT MERCY EXPERIENCE

A mercy experience is life changing.

1. Each participant will return to his/her various vocation with a deeper introspection on life’s priorities, human condition, and faith and life.
2. Each participant will return with new and special friendships with Christians around the world, thus gaining a “bigger view” of the Church.
3. Each participant will return with a greater understanding of the theology of the cross and suffering in light of our Lord’s death and resurrection.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE YOUNG ADULTS AFTER THEIR RETURN FROM THE MERCY EXPERIENCE

It is a privilege to be chosen to have this Kenya mercy experience. With this privilege are expectations upon one’s return:

1. It is expected that you will give at least four presentations in different locations concerning your mercy experience.
2. It is expected that you will ask those who attend your presentations to contribute to the Mary Okeyo Scholarship Fund so that others may also have this wonderful mercy experience.
3. It is expected that each participant returning from Kenya will be inspired to come back and be ambassadors for the mission field in Africa and raise money for continued efforts there.
4. It is expected that you will give a good and positive witness of your mercy experience, Project 24, and the two district’s witness and mercy partnership with the ELCK.



DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

1. The Districts will secure round-trip airfare from Minneapolis MN to Nairobi Kenya (approximately \$2,000) and evacuation insurance.
2. A District President, District Personnel, Pastor, and/or Project 24 individual will accompany these young adults in order to provide spiritual care, guidance, and mentorship to them, helping them evaluate their experience, their role in the Church, and how this impacts them personally, their home congregation, the District, and the greater Church.
3. District representatives will put together a comprehensive packet of materials and resources in helping the young adults prepare for this experience



SELECTION OF YOUNG ADULTS, PASTORS, AND LAYPEOPLE

1. Each individual desiring to be selected will submit a *Project 24 Young Adult Mercy Experience Application*.
2. Young Adults selected will be ages 18 to approximately 28 years old.
3. Approximately five Youth will be selected for a *Project 24 Youth Adult Mercy Experience*.
4. The District Board of Directors (through the Bold Witnesses Standing Committee) will work in cooperation with Project 24 in selecting the Young Adults, pastor, and layperson who will go on the *Project 24 Young Adult Mercy Experience*.



RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE YOUNG ADULTS SELECTED

1. They will need to obtain their own passport.
2. They will need to get the necessary shots and malaria medication to enter Kenya.
3. They will need to secure health care insurance through their own provider.
4. They will be responsible for their own airport luggage costs.
5. They will be responsible for their own “ground” costs (e.g. lodging, food, travel, incidentals, which averages between \$800-\$1,000 per person).
6. They will complete the necessary reading material and assignments prior to the experience.
7. They will need to provide their own spending money.
8. They will give at least four presentations on their experience after returning from Kenya.
9. They will be fully engaged in the mercy care experience while in Kenya (industrious, good attitude, fruits of the spirit, cooperative, etc).

Application

Project 24 Young Adult Mercy Experience

YOU**DULT MERCY EXPERIENCE**

Full Name_____

Age_____ Date of Birth_____

Address_____

City_____ District_____

Cell Phone # _____ Email Address_____

Home Congregation _____

Pastor's Name_____ Pastor's Signature_____

If you are a college student:

Institution_____ Major _____

If you are employed:

Name of Employer_____ Position_____

1. Why are you applying for the *Project 24 Young Adult Mercy Experience*?

2. What experiences in life have you had which you see could be helpful for the *Project 24 Young Adult Mercy Experience*?

3. How do you see your *Project 24 Young Adult Mercy Experience* affecting your Christian faith and life?

4. How do you see your *Project 24 Young Adult Mercy Experience* having a positive impact on your congregation, District, and Synod?

Please return this Application to:

Mr. Robert Wurl
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