



Dear Pastor / Group Leader

We are delighted that you are considering a mission trip to Botswana. Nothing will do more to stir your heart and broaden your vision than meeting the people, seeing the need, and being involved in the work first hand. And...Botswana is an incredible country to visit offering both a modern and a rustic African experience. Hosting you would be an incredible honor for us. We will be well prepared for your visit and will work hard to make your time with us a blessed and unforgettable experience. Good communication, diligent planning & preparation, and a flexible spirit is essential to a successful missions trip. Our desire is to give you information that will minimize problems and inconveniences so that we can maximize your ministry while you are here. Please impose upon us! We're here to serve you and can work out an itinerary and schedule that allows you to accomplish the goals you have for your trip.

The following information will serve as a starting point to help you prepare for and estimate the cost of a trip. We do everything we can on this end to help make it fruitful, enjoyable and economical all at the same time. Hosting mission teams is something we love to do! Your presence here and the fellowship with folks from "home" really ministers to us and your ministry to the people of Botswana will have an ETERNAL impact! We look forward to your coming!!

Together in the harvest,

Brother Mike and Mrs. Cindy Haley
Botswana, Africa

Email: pastormhaley@gmail.com and emailmrsindy@gmail.com - You can also call our US number which rings to the house here in Botswana: (317) 586-4001 or call our Botswana cell phones using **WhatsApp** on your smart phone: +267 77 987 790. You must dial the plus sign "+" for this to work. We are 7 hours ahead of EST.

DOCUMENTATION – CRITICALLY IMPORTANT!!!!

You will not need a visa for Botswana but your passport must still be valid for 6 months upon your entry into Botswana. Just as a precaution – everyone should bring a NOTARIZED copy of your passport, birth certificate, driver's license, and social security card with you. In the event of a lost or stolen passport this will expedite the process of getting a replacement at the US embassy here. These documents should be packed in carry on - never in checked baggage.

MUST READ!!!! – Every person under the age of 18 must bring their ORIGINAL or an OFFICIAL CERTIFIED COPY birth certificate along with their passport AND if BOTH parents are not accompanying you must have a NOTARIZED letter from EACH parent authorizing the minor to travel with a designated adult responsible for the minor. This seems extreme but is a measure put in place due to the high volume of child trafficking that is taking place in Africa. You must have these documents or you will not be allowed in the country. You likely will be asked to show these documents along the way of your whole trip in airports and at border crossings. Even if one birth parent is along with the minor on the trip you must have the authorization letter from the other (absent) parent authorizing the accompanying parent to cross international borders with the minor stating every country you will be in, even on layovers. We will email you a sample letter and please contact us if you have any questions about this policy.

TRAVEL AND FLIGHTS – “JO-burg” is short for the city Johannesburg in the country of South Africa

You will fly into Sir Seretse Khama International Airport in Gaborone, Botswana. The airport code is GBE. We live 15 minutes from there. Almost everyone will connect through the OR TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JNB) in Johannesburg, South Africa to connect with Air Botswana or South African airlines for the one hour flight into Botswana.

ESSENTIAL TIPS: - THE BEST MONTHS TO VISIT BOTSWANA ARE MAY, JUNE, JULY, & AUGUST (Weather & Cost)

- If possible, check your bags all the way through to Gaborone and you will not claim or carry your bags again until you arrive in Botswana. The check in agent of your departure airline may inform you that they do not have a baggage agreement with Botswana Air and will only check your luggage to Jo-burg. That’s ok! BUT...most likely you will have a separate ticket for Botswana Air that was purchased separately by your travel agent and it will have a different “Record Locator Number.” **Just make sure that BOTH record locator numbers are printed on your travel itinerary.** This ties in your flight to Botswana to your preceding flights. Be certain this is done long before the day of your departure. Your travel agent should take care of it for you but if it’s not done you risk paying unnecessary luggage fees to get your luggage on into Botswana.

- In Jo-burg you will:

1. Deplane and proceed straight to customs – (*it’s a long walk and a good place to hurry a bit and stretch those weary legs! The lines get long quickly*) 2. You will leave the secure area and claim your luggage at baggage claim (**unless they are checked through to Gaborone) then proceed directly to the Botswana Air (counter #'s A75-A76 in departure terminal “A”) to get your boarding pass and recheck your bags. When you claim your bags it’s a good idea to ask a luggage handler (the legitimate guys wear orange and navy blue uniforms) to take you to the Botswana Air check in counters and let them tote your luggage. A good tip is \$2-3 USD for each handler and it’s well worth it to let them guide you and avoid getting lost. 3. You’ll re-screen at security directly behind the ticket counters and head to your gate. Don’t delay – it’s a fair walk to get to your departure gate. If you have time you will pass some nice stores to browse on the way to your gate. ***If your luggage is checked all the way through to Gaborone from your US point of departure it makes this process much quicker and simpler as you do not have to claim, carry, and recheck your bags in Jo-burg.* But you will walk out of security and go back through either way. **A min. 3-hour layover in Jo-burg is advisable.**

- The normal luggage allowance for international travel is one checked bag and a carry on. Laundry can be done at our home including ironing (no need to bring one). For large teams our staff will assist to do laundry for you while you are out each day. Most everything you’ll need or want is available here. To be honest most people WAY OVERPACK. Planes coming into Botswana are small and excess luggage can create a lot of delayed baggage and transportation problems especially with large groups traveling together. Additionally, we often ask folks to bring small items that we need from the States which helps us greatly to avoid shipping costs. A helpful rule of thumb – PACK – CUT IT DOWN AND REPACK. **You’ll want plenty of room going home for souvenirs!!**
- When I was pastoring and travelled internationally, I always packed with low cost new or gently used clothing (think Kohl’s clearance items and good thrift stores) with the intent of giving most of what I brought to the missionary to use or give-away when I left. This creates lots of space to wrap and pack your souvenirs in your checked bag going home and sometimes you can avoid having to check a bag at all.
- Weigh your luggage before you leave for the airport and “shrink-wrap” your suitcase. This cuts down greatly on pilfering, theft, soiling or damage to your luggage. Some airports offer this service in the terminal.
- Avoid wearing “USA” marked clothing. When travelling internationally the more you blend in the better. Try not to look like a “tourist.” In today’s world, you have to be smart to be safe. Watch your electronics!!

- If there are issues at the airport especially when clearing customs – ALWAYS COOPERATE AND BE VERY GRACIOUS. Generally speaking folks are very polite and will want to help you. CALL US if there is a problem. This is where you'll be glad you already downloaded WHATSAPP on your phone. Most airports have free WIFI connections.
- With the exception of a few roadside souvenir places you can use your credit or debit card to pay for almost anything. You'll only need a little cash in Botswana. We use the ATM to get ours. Have some US currency with you but avoid carrying a large amount of cash. Plastic is the way to go. Call your credit card company and your bank before you leave and let them know that you are travelling and the dates of your trip. The new "chip" technology works very well here. Also – using a debit or credit card helps to get the best exchange rate on your purchases.
- **Buy / Pack Binoculars!** – There's a lot to zoom in on when we go on trek locally and on Safari in South Africa. Botswana is a bird watcher's paradise and some nights the moon through binoculars is beyond breathtaking.

ACCOMODATIONS

We rent a very secure, spacious, and comfortable house. Hospitality is a big part of our ministry so it's set up with guests in mind. We encourage folks to stay with us if you want to minimize the cost of your trip. Utilizing bunk beds, we can sleep up to ten guests here at the house and even more with air mattresses. Modern, clean, and comfortable lodging is also available very near to us. We understand that some may prefer the additional privacy or convenience that a hotel offers. We don't mind either way. We want you to be comfortable.

The mud hut, thatched roof, dirt floor option can be arranged for those who want to contract malaria from the mosquitoes and wake up to the rats and the green mamba snake looking you in the eyes. Ready to sign up? 😊

TRANSPORTATION – Transportation details will be worked out for each individual group

Currently we can transport 10-11 guests (packed tight) with our two vehicles. Eight passenger vans can be rented at the airport. Here in Botswana we have Avis or Hertz available. You might find a bargain option but often these are not reliable.

FOOD

Most days we'll eat a quick breakfast at the house. Lunch will be out in the city around 12 or 1 with a nice dinner out or at our home later each evening. At least one evening will include a very special meal out in a beautiful setting in the city and for those who enjoy breakfast out we can arrange for that as well. There's always plenty of robust coffee and tea at the Haley house!

Food is excellent and snacks are plentiful here with a good variety of fresh fruit, nuts, candy bars, ice cream, potato chips, soft drinks, etc. The fruit juices are exceptional. Coke products mostly – little to no Pepsi. Prices are similar to what you'd pay in the States except for beef which costs much less. Botswana EXCELLS IN BEEF. Biltong – a dried beef jerky is a traditional snack favorite. We even have a Brazilian style steakhouse (Rodizios) that is phenomenal. Chicken any way you like it is abundant, even a Kentucky Fried Chicken. There is good seafood, burger joints, cafes, Indian and Chinese restaurants as well. There aren't any McDonalds and little by way of fast food. Grocery stores are just like they are in the States. For those who want to experience the culture we will go to the center of the city and eat lunch "on the street" to take in some traditional Botswana fare. And for the adventurous souls we'll try to arrange for an authentic Botswana gourmet meal of Ox tail, Pap, and roasted Mopane worms.

Our schedule will require lunch and dinner out most days. We can also stop at the market each day to let folks purchase their snack of choice. We always have coolers in the vehicles to keep drinks cool.

Salad Eaters – we have good salads in Botswana but salad dressings are yogurt based and not like we're used to in the States. The oil and balsamic vinegar is excellent. If you are a ranch dressing' aholic, like my Cindy, then buy some Hidden Valley packets to bring and we'll mix it for you here. If you have a favorite "must have" dressing bring a small bottle of it along with you.

It's a good idea to bring some antacid, anti-gas, and anti-diarrhea meds with you but normally everyone does well with the food and you'll find that nothing is all that "exotic." MSG is widely used. Let us know if you are sensitive to it.

WEATHER AND SEASONS / GUIDELINES FOR DRESS – Botswana is sunny and warm most of the time

- Ladies, we request you to wear skirts/culottes/dresses. Modest sleeveless tops are ok but not spaghetti straps. The key is to be comfortable whilst setting a good example for the ladies here at the same time. Most people in Botswana, especially the ladies, maintain a very well-kept and fashionable appearance in public even for casual occasions. The "dress down" trend that has taken hold in the US is not the norm here and most days we will be out representing the ministry in some public way. Our goal is to always have an "above average" appearance.
- Men, we request you to wear kakis/jeans/dress slacks whichever you prefer. Golf or Polo shirts and button up shirts through the week – shirt & tie on Sunday. Shirts that don't tuck in (similar to what they wear in the Philippines are very comfortable and becoming more commonplace here. The key is to be comfortable! For recreation days bring comfortable casual clothing.
- Pack GOOD walking shoes! On average, you'll walk about five times more than normal each day.
- Feel free to wear shoes in the house but you may want something slip on when we're home in the evenings. All our floors are tile can be hard on your feet, a bit dusty, and cold in winter. We wear crocks and slippers.
- Ladies - a cross-over purse is your best option to help prevent purse snatching.

Although everything is lush and green at the moment, technically Botswana is a desert climate, cooler to cold in the evenings and mornings and warm to sizzling hot during the daylight hours depending on the season. Seasons are usually the exact opposite of what they are in the States.

Winter here is June - August. The temperature can drop to the low 40's mornings and evenings. By 10 or 11 a.m. it warms up sometimes even to 70+ degrees. If you come during these months...

- Layers are good. If it warms up that day, you can just peel a layer and still be comfortable.
- Sweatshirts/hoodies are great, a light coat or jacket, some may even want a knit hat and gloves. Once the sun starts going down, it gets cool fast. If we are out-and-about, you'll definitely want a jacket or light coat.
- Note also that sometimes August can get warm even though it's still considered winter!

Summer is September - May. The temperatures can get into the low 100's. Usually in the 90's every day. There isn't much humidity except during the rainy season which is October to March. Bring cool, lightweight and COMFORTABLE clothing.

- Ladies jean skirts can be very hot. So, think of cool material – flowing skirts are excellent and common here. You may want to do some clothes shopping here as the ladies clothing is absolutely beautiful.
- Cool & comfortable shoes. Sandals, light sneakers, flats, etc. Heels are not recommended!
- Men - do not feel you must wear a full suit to church. Shirt and tie with dress slacks is fine. The church is air conditioned but is still warm.

SHOTS / VACCINATIONS / MALARIA

Vaccinations are not necessary but we do take precautions against mosquitos. Malaria is not usually reported in our part of Botswana but with the rainy season we've had there are cases being reported in the regional areas around us. We're careful. If possible – use unscented deodorant and avoid hairsprays, scented perfumes and body sprays. This is

your best defense. Use Deep Woods Off in the evenings and / or wear a Bug-Off wrist band. Keep windows closed at night.

INTERNET / PHONES / COMMUNICATION – Download and set up WHATSAPP on your phone!

We have wireless internet service at the house but all internet in Botswana is limited. WHATSAPP is a must – the way to go to call, text, video call, send photos, etc. all for free when you have an internet connection. Download the app before you come and have those you'll want to communicate with do the same, then be sure to add your contact numbers to the WHATSAPP contact list. Smart phones work here but not all Apple features will work. To send any photos or to make video calls you will need WHATSAPP. We also have a Vonage phone to make Stateside calls for free using internet and when you arrive, if you wish, and for not much cost, you can buy a pre-paid sim card, data, and airtime from a local provider to use in your phone while you are here. We recommend all team leaders do this to maintain constant contact. When adding contact numbers using WHATSAPP you must put a + sign and the country code in front of the number.

Our Vonage number is: (317) 586-4001. If someone needs to get ahold of you through us they should dial Vonage at night or our cell phone number through WHATSAPP. Those numbers are as follows: Mike - +267 77 987 790
Cindy - +267 77 987 771.

We are six hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time during Daylight Savings Time and Seven hours ahead of EST when it is not Daylight Savings Time.

ELECTRONICS / PLUG ADAPTORS / ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

All electronics must specify an input of 100-220 volts – 50-60Hz on the UL label to work in Botswana. Most hair dryers and curling irons brought from home will not work unless you have purchased one that is specifically rated for 220 and then you will still need a plug adaptor. You can go on Amazon and buy these appliances and the adaptor plug needed to use them (see below) or you can buy those items here eliminating the need for an adaptor plug. We try to maintain a couple of extra irons, curling irons, and blow-dryers for visiting groups to use. Laptops, tablets, phones, etc. can all be easily charged here with simple adaptors that we'll provide for you. It is highly recommended that you buy the black 110v to Africa plug – plug adaptor that is shown here from Ebay. With this plug you can easily plug in any appliance with a 110V standard plug as long as the UL label reads 220V input. Good current convertors are also available on Ebay but usually will not handle the load needed to operate a hair dryer or curling iron.

MINISTRY – MISSION POSSIBLE!!

We have established ministries for you to be involved in while you are here. These include, but are not limited to, passing out John & Romans at crowded bus stops, visitation, soul winning, weekly discipleship groups, preaching, teaching, singing, neighborhood Bible clubs, week-day services at government offices and police stations, and ministry to the public and private school students and on the sprawling campus of the University of Botswana. We'll not ask you to do anything you're uncomfortable with but come prepared to participate in any way you wish!! If you or someone in your group have special talents, please let us know... singing, balloon art, clowning, etc. It wouldn't be possible to write out a fixed schedule now but we will use you to work in the ministry and experience life on the mission field as much as you want and in the same way that we do each day. The people of Botswana are generally very kind and unusually receptive to the gospel and most speak or understand English to some degree. You'll never forget your interactions with the people of this land and God will use you to impact their life with the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ! – Ready to get started?

You will NEVER be purposely put in a dangerous place or area. Teens will NOT be left without adult supervision.

FUN AND RECREATION – AFRICAN SAFARI!

Your trip will not be “all work and no play.” As time permits we’ll take you sightseeing in our capital city of Gaborone and into some of the outlying villages. You’ll tour the **THREE CHIEFS** monument and hear a live presentation of Botswana’s history, culture, struggle for independence and how missionaries **Robert Moffat and David Livingstone** brought the gospel to Africa and impacted Botswana’s religious history. Time permitting, we’ll go to visit the **ruins at Kolobeng** where Livingstone lived and worked. Botswana has an outstanding **cultural history museum** and for those who are game we’ll **trek up Kgale Hill and Odi Hill** (rocky hills with rugged trails to get beautiful views of the city and surrounding countryside. We’ll drive through an area of town at lunch time where you’ll see **baboons** coming down from Kgale Hill and might see one “snatching” somebody’s bagged lunch as they walk down the street. One evening we’ll take a **walk in the “bush”** not far from our house and see one or our **beautiful Botswana sunsets**. We have a local **LION PARK** where you can see the king of the jungle up close and a small drive thru **game preserve** here in Gaborone.

But above all – your trip to Botswana, Africa can include the opportunity to go on an AFRICAN SAFARI!

The Tau Game Lodge in South Africa is about an hour and fifteen minute drive from our house. Every day is different on safari but you’ll have the chance to see lions, herds of wildebeests, antelopes, gazelles, nubuck, elephants, giraffes, zebras, monkeys, alligators, beautiful birds, cheetahs, hippos, Pumba (warthogs), buzzards, hyenas, jackals, wild dogs, and so much more in their natural habitat. Words could never fully describe this adventure. If he’s available we’ll request Iggy as our guide, the greatest guide ever and known to be the best in the business! He’s been doing this for over 25 years. Iggy is a very kind man, will ask what you want to see, and do everything possible to make sure you do.

The typical schedule is to arrive at the lodge before noon, then eat an incredible lunch buffet. After lunch you can get a nap or laze around on an observation decks overlooking a watering hole with an abundance of wildlife coming and going (binoculars make it a blast). Then in the late afternoon we’ll go out in the jeeps for a three hour evening safari that ends after dark and then back for an amazing outdoor candlelight dinner at the lodge with our guide as our table guest. Electric fences keep the critters in check so you’re 100% safe. You never know when “stubby” the resident juvenile, bob tailed monkey will pop into your table and steal your cell phone. He has a collection of them, and a reputation!!

Your day includes a buffet lunch, high tea, 3 hour game drive, dinner in the outside boma.

SHOPPING

Souvenir shopping is excellent in South Africa and Botswana. At Bull and Bush you’ll meet Mr. Moyo, an artisan who handcrafts much of what he sells / In Botswana Craft you’ll see the handwoven baskets that Botswana is famous for / In most of the malls tables full of wood and leather handcrafted items are abundant / African style fabrics and ladies clothing is very colorful and beautiful and men may enjoy purchasing a traditional African themed shirt to wear at Missions Conference back home. **IF YOU ENJOY SHOPPING – LEAVE ROOM IN YOUR LUGGAGE.**

MUST PACK ITEMS

Small Bible or Soul-winners New Testament / Deep Woods Off mosquito repellent – spray or wrist bands only – no aerosols / Small flashlight (most smart phones have it) / Binoculars – pack in your carry on! / Antacid and Anti-gas and Anti-Diarrhea medicine / Chapstick / Small packs of tissue for public toilets / Crystallized Ginger is excellent for motion sickness / Melatonin is good for jetlag – not available here / Sunscreen / A good hat – especially if you are “sun-sensitive.” / Good quality sunglasses - good UV protection is a must / USB plug adaptor for phone (see photo and website link) / 110V to Botswana receptacle plug adaptor (see photo) / Unscented deodorant / Good shoes / Notarized copies of your passport, birth certificate, driver’s license, and social security card (for the Embassy in case you lose your passport) / Jacket during the cool season / Cheap pocket pack plastic rain parka.

WEBSITES

Tau Game Lodge - www.taugamelodge.co.

Jo-burg Airport - www.johannesburg-airport.com

Botswana Airport - www.airbotswana.co.bw/airport

Three Chiefs - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Dikgosi_Monument

Amazon plug adaptors –

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B004O4UETA/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o04_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01FDCSS7Q/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o06_s02?ie=UTF8&psc=1

PICTURES



Adaptor plugs



Kgale Hill



Safari



Mike
Most call him
"Pastor"

Cindy
aka. Mom,
Mum or Auntie

Tjada
Sounds like
"Chada"

Amantle
We call him
"Monte"



Emily and Mocha
our daughter and the baby

WE NEED FROM YOU

We have put together a survey to help us ensure the greatest possible trip. Please have each person coming complete a survey separately. We ask for a photo of each person so we can begin learning names AND praying for them individually. This needs to be received no later than 3 weeks before your arrival. Please email to ... emailmrscindy@gmail.com. Above are photos of leadership here for you to get to know them too. Thank you for helping with this important step in your trip preparations.

Helpful Info This Side...

You are getting ready to have the time of your life and be involved in ministry to the fullest. To ensure a great experience, there are a few questions we'd like to ask. PLEASE HAVE EACH PERSON IN YOUR GROUP COMPLETE A COPY OF THEIR OWN. Scan this or take a photo and email back to emailmrscindy@gmail.com Also, please send a copy of your photo so we can put names and faces together and begin praying for you. We would like to have them back no later than 3 weeks before your arrival.

1. Allergies: Do you have any allergies? food or medication, anything?

2. Do you have a medical condition we should know about? ie. Diabetes, High blood pressure?

3. Are there any foods you cannot/will not eat? ie. fish, chicken, wheat...

4. Are you physically able to hike? Do you enjoy hiking?

5. Are you able to camp? Tent or cabin? Do you enjoy camping?

6. Would you enjoy teaching a class at church appropriate for your gender? Men, Ladies, Teens, or Children

7. Would you feel comfortable speaking to a group in a relaxed setting for your gender?
ie. Men's Breakfast, Ladies Brunch

8. Do you have a special talent you could use here? ie. Singing, painting, building, teaching, sewing

9. What do you like to snack on? – please be specific. ie. Popcorn, Chips, Nuts, Fruit, Chocolate

10. Water, Juice and or Soft Drink – please be specific. ie. Coke, Mtn Dew, Sweet Tea, Orange Juice

11. Is there anything you feel we should know about to help you enjoy your stay more?
This will be kept confidential if you desire.

