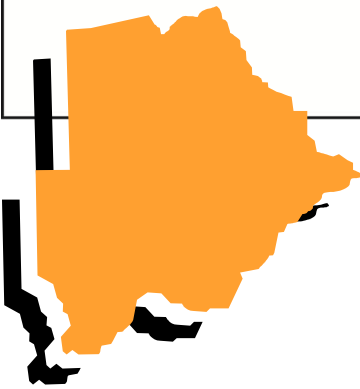


Close Connections

Save, Face, Prosper, Unify the Nation



BOTSWANA



A consortium of like-minded churches and faith-based organizations working closely to assist Open Baptist Church and its mission points expand the Kingdom in Botswana and elsewhere.

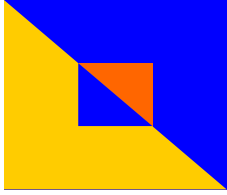
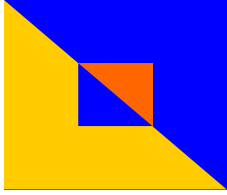


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CLOSE CONNECTIONS

Priority is given to those ministry plans and strategies that are:

- **Replicable**
- **Sustainable by OBC**
- **Empowering and do not create long-term dependency**
- **Measurable and fruitful**

Churches and faith based organizations are needed to come along side of Open Baptist Church* as CLOSE CONNECTIONS Partners to help:

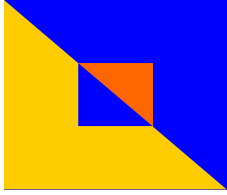
1. Build leadership and church growth/ministry capacity,
2. OBC reach further than they can without your partnership,
3. Build sustainable and transferable ministries and
4. Enlarge and enrich Kingdom effectiveness globally.

***In all places where OBC is referenced, this includes mission points, such as Naledi Baptist Fellowship, Gakuto, Molepolole, and others.**

While there are financial needs, this is not the focus of the engagement. The focus is helping OBC achieve its mission and vision while focusing on ministry priorities.

Empowering ministries to develop strength. The operative consideration for partners is avoiding long-term dependency. While this is a highly debated topic, the avoidance of such comes down to a simple concept. Funds and other aid should be based upon the vision and mission of our African partners, not on our own vision. African partners must be engaged in the process of defining and executing actions. Any other approach is unhealthy and will most likely not enable the partner to "finish the course."

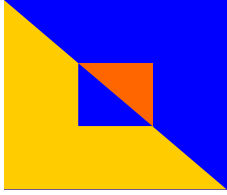
There are four strategies defined herein. Within each strategy are multiple opportunities for engagement. By working in CLOSE CONNECTIONS much can be done and we can avoid duplication of effort and schedule overlaps.



Purpose

The Purpose of this Guide is:

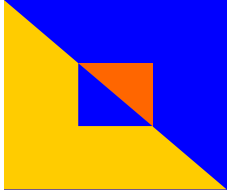
1. To set forth the nature of the relationship between Open Baptist Church (OBC), Gaborone, Botswana and its partners.
2. To help connect, engage and assimilate partners for ministry in Botswana with OBC, Gaborone, Botswana.
3. To set forth basic guidelines that will help partners work collaboratively with OBC to help them do what they cannot do for themselves.
4. To help partners find connection points where they can help OBC with high priority projects.
5. To assist OBC in reaching Botswana and its neighbors for Christ.
6. To help strengthen the mission's capacity of the partner's church as well as OBC.
7. To help define the logistical and other support that is required by both the partner and OBC for optimum ministry results.



Operating Guidelines

It is the intent of Close Connection to operate in a way that:

1. Helps fulfill the vision and mission of OBC and its mission points.
2. Supports and compliments OBC and its ministry priorities without owning, dominating or controlling while creating a growing and empowering relationship based upon mutual respect and common goals, rather than one that develops dependency.
3. In keeping with OBC's priorities, helps develop, expand and support programs for evangelism, discipleship, church growth, capacity building and church planting.
4. Advances the Kingdom's work in Botswana and its neighboring countries especially in the fight against HIV/ AIDS. Strengthens the partner church's mission efforts.
5. Allows for partners to enter at a point where the gifts, talents and capacity of their church or organization aligns with the priorities of Open Baptist Church.
6. Builds upon values such as, purpose, openness, trust, faith, shared vision, mutual respect, gentleness, commitment to meet and communicate, mentoring, financial and personal integrity and accountability.
7. Builds camaraderie among partners for the good of the partners and OBC .
8. Produces fruit and healthy growth.
9. Celebrates success!
10. Gives ALL of the glory to God!

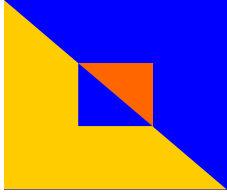


North American Facilitator Roles

In coordination and cooperation with Open Baptist Church, CLOSE CONNECTIONS North American facilitators will advise churches and organizations about specific ministry needs and priorities.

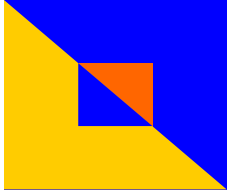
They work closely with Open Baptist Church to:

1. Listen to the heartbeat of the leaders of OBC.
2. Gather due diligence.
3. Build accountability systems.
4. Find North American resources to work as Close Connection partners.
5. Coordinate partner communications and meetings.
6. Troubleshoot, if necessary.



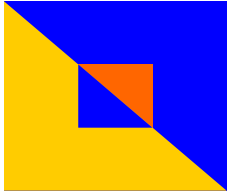
Partner Expectations

- Engage in regular communications. Keep partners informed of partnership efforts.
- Be candid.
- Ask questions so that we can all discover best practices.
- Respect the autonomy of the local church. Partners do not own, dominate or control the work of the local church.
- Set mutually agreeable strategies with achievable goals, based upon the priorities of Open Baptist Church and Its mission points as well as faith.
- Depend upon the power of prayer. Engage others in prayer for the ministries.
- Attend periodic CLOSE CONNECTIONS meetings to engage with other partners for critiquing, planning, and celebrating.
- Observe the operating guidelines.



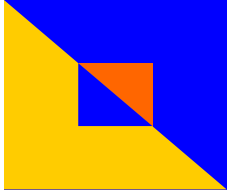
Strategies

1. **Save the Nation.** A comprehensive ministry-based strategy with two components.
 - Help OBC and its mission points build capacity.
 - Mobilize other local churches and FBO's.
2. **Face the Nation.** An HIV/AIDS intervention program begun in 2006. It uses University of Botswana students who are committed to abstinence as peer mentors. They are trained for five weeks and deployed to senior secondary schools for five weeks. During this five week period of deployment they teach the ABCs (Abstain, Be Faithful and Claim Christ) in guidance counseling classes. Over 45,000 students are reached annually.
3. **Prosper the Nation.** An emerging strategy with two components.
 - Evangelize, disciple, equip and mobilize business leaders.
 - Evangelize, disciple, equip and mobilize industrial workers.
4. **Unify the Nation.** An emerging strategy to build community, strengthen relationship and transfer faith-based life-skills to village residents.



Open Baptist Church Highlights

- Pastor: Norman G. Schaefer. Wife: Gabi
- Vision: Together in Christ to the World
- Governance: Executive Committee (Deacons and Elders), Congregational church
- Membership: Approximately 420
- Average Attendance: Approximately 1200 adults; 400 children
- Number of Sunday AM Worship Services: 2
- Average Monthly Gifts: ~\$41,600 (up from \$16k in 1/06)
- Annual Budget: ~\$500,000
- Full Time Employees:
 - Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care/Counseling, Administrator, Youth Pastor/Worship Leader, Receptionist, Secretary, Accountant.
- Part Time Employees:
 - Interns, Security Guard, Face the Nation Director, Face the Nation Associates.
- Church ministries:
 - Adult, youth and children's Sunday school; recreation, care/counseling ministry; evangelism training and discipleship; music, worship and praise; prayer ministry; and missions.
- Strategies:
 - **Face the Nation**—HIV/AIDS Faith-based education to students.
 - **Save the Nation**—A movement to mobilize local churches for ministry and build the capacity of OBC.
 - **Prosper the Nation**—Help develop economic engines that evangelize, disciple, equip and mobilize business and industrial workers.
 - **Unify the Nation**—Build strong faith-based communities throughout Botswana..
- Outreach ministries:
 - Old Naledi School and Feeding Station for vulnerable Children; Old Naledi Church; Church revitalization and planting in Gakuto, Kapong, Selebi Phikwe, Kasane, Molepolole, Mosojane and elsewhere); Unreached people groups (Diphuduhudu) project; International missions to Zambia and Zimbabwe; Campus ministry at the University of Botswana; Sports and recreation ministry; Fine arts training and outreach; Biblical counseling; Family enrichment ministry; Community outreach, and Face the Nation.
- Challenges:
 - Church growth; sustaining and expanding Face the Nation; developing church property at the Blue Tree; developing a quality sports facility, grounds and program; addressing HIV/AIDS impact to community; training leaders; staffing; meeting financial demands; and continuing ministry needs.



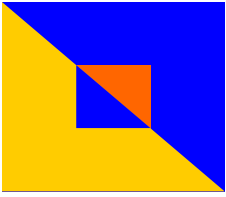
Financial Guidelines

Partner Guidelines for Expenses:

1. Air travel and lodging.
2. A per diem to cover transport, arrival and departure hotel tips, meals for themselves and their immediate African team. Per diem is paid to OBC. Each team's per diem will be set based upon the amount of travel, the pula rate, meal expectations and any other contingencies. As of this date per diems range from \$30-50.00/day. Teams should **send their per diem at least 8 weeks ahead of arrival unless otherwise directed.**
3. OBC shall maintain funds in a designated "hospitality account" from which they will not only pay all of the expenses listed above (or transfer comparable Pula to the team leader) but they may also use some of the funds to pay for routine maintenance on transport vehicles, replenish hospitality supplies, etc.
4. Reimbursement to OBC for expenses that they agreed to pay as a part of their mission engagements. For example, block party costs, team supplies, etc.
5. Travel expenses for local Africans when they are expected to be part of the team.
6. The team leader should travel with extra cash in case of a medical or other emergency or have a VISA with an open line of credit to cover emergency expenses. *Note: The team leader is responsible for ensuring that all travelers have proper medical insurance.*
7. Complete and file CC travel forms.

OBC's Responsibilities:

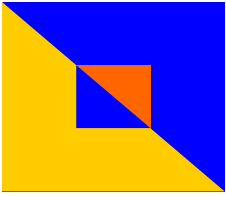
1. Ensure that the logistical details such as lodging reservations, meals, supplies, agreed upon program support materials, etc. are arranged and/or available.
2. Communicate with the team leader to ensure that expectations are clearly defined and that expenses, including cost estimates, are discussed prior to the team's arrival.
3. Provide local transportation for the team(s). This includes, airport arrival and departure, hotel pick-up and drop-off daily and intra-country travels.
4. Provide an interpreter when required. As a courtesy, the team generally pays the interpreter a small honorarium.



When your team is traveling with supplies that it plans to leave with the church, it is necessary to request from OBC a Letter from The Department of International Trade so that you may clear customs without paying a customs fee.

In order to obtain this letter and clear customs, the team leader should follow these guidelines.

1. Send an e-mail to Allan Megaw. obc@botsnet.bw. Put ATTN: Allan Megaw in the subject line. Include in this e-mail: the dates of travel, the purpose of the trip and a general listing of the supplies that you will be transporting. State in the e-mail that these will be donated to the ministry and that they will not be sold.
2. Wait to receive an e-mail from Allan with the appropriate letter attached.
3. Each traveler should enter the country with a copy of the letter and a typed list of the items in her or his luggage and the value of the items. These documents should be kept in carry-on luggage, not in the checked luggage.
4. When ready to clear customs, the traveler should depart, if s/he has items to declare, through the line marked Items to Declare. The paperwork should be given to the border agent who will help process the traveler through customs.
5. If you have a large group, it is best to have the team leader proceed through the line first and for him or her to have a consolidated list of all of the items to declare and their value as well as the custom's letter. Often times, this process is acceptable and takes less time; however, as a traveler you are a guest in Botswana and should comply with their processes.
6. Be patient. Their processes often take more time. This is not the time to be critical or talk about inefficiencies or make uncomplimentary comments. Remember, you are on mission for God!

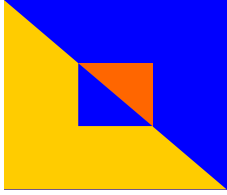


Close Connections – Botswana Travel Form

To: obc@botsnet.bw

Each traveler or travel group is expected to complete a Travel Form and ensure that the travel dates are entered onto the Botswana shared Calendar. Each Close Connections Partner should establish a Google mail account so that they may access the calendar.

Each traveler or group should complete a Travel Form. This form is available at www.closeconnections.org. In most cases, dates should be confirmed 12 months in advance and team forms should be completed at least six (6) months in advance. This ensures that hotel accommodations are available and that the best rates are reserved. The travel coordinator in Botswana will confirm all of the information on the forms with the team leader.



Background

Botswana is among the countries hardest hit by AIDS with the second highest prevalence rate in the world. Life expectancy at birth fell from 65 years in 1990-1995 to 33.6 years in 2006.

- ▶ Geographic size of Botswana...slightly smaller than Texas**
- ▶ Population = ~1.84M**
- ▶ Birth rate = 23/1000; Death rate = 14/1000** (death rate has improved from 30/1000 in 2006)
- ▶ Population over 65 is less than .68%** (down from 4% in 2006)
- ▶ Mortality rate = 44/1000**
- ▶ Pregnant women in the age group of 30-34 years of age have a 48.7% HIV/AIDS prevalence rate***
- ▶ Students with a university education had the lowest prevalence rate 16.3% ***
- ▶ Students ages 15-19 (The target group for Face the Nation HIV/AIDS Intervention Program) had the lowest prevalence rate of 17.5%.
- ▶ Married women who were pregnant had the lowest prevalence rate (25.6%); while the highest rate was among those living together (41.8%)
- ▶ Only about 1 in 3 young people (age 15-24) know how to prevent HIV/AIDS*
- ▶ Two-thirds of men admit to having sex with someone other than their long-term partner in 2005*
- ▶ Health risk = high. Highest risk factors: bacterial diarrhea, Hepatitis A, typhoid fever, Malaria (in the non-desert regions)**
- ▶ Currency...Pulas (~ 6.25 BW Pula to \$1.00)*****
- ▶ Climate...semiarid, hot summers, warm winters**
- ▶ Life expectancy at birth...~ 50.6 years (up from 33.6 in 2006)**
- ▶ Religions...71% Christian**
- ▶ Unemployment rate = 7.5%** (down from 40% in 2006)
- ▶ Population below the poverty line = 30.3%**
- ▶ Inflation rate for 2007 = 7.1%** (down from 14.1% in 2006)
- ▶ The United Nations Development Program estimates that by 2010 more than 20% of all children in Botswana will be orphans.*****

Information Sources:

*UNAIDS, 2006 AIDS Epidemic Update, Sub-Saharan Africa, Botswana;

**<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/bc.html> as of 2/7/2007

***2006 Sentinel Surveillance, Botswana by Harvard University

****www.coinmill.com

*****2008 Country Profile: Botswana

Botswana. Africa



Meanfuling Verses for Mission Teams

Meaningful verses:

“He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely, But he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully.” Proverbs 10:5

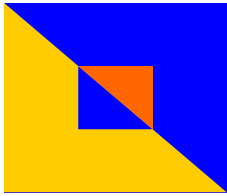
“I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.” John 8:12

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

“...If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.” 1 John 4:12

“If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14



CLOSE CONNECTIONS Partnership Team Members

Open Baptist Church
Gaborone, Botswana
Contact: Norman G. Schaefer, Senior Pastor
ngs@botsnet.bw

Alice Drive Baptist Church
Sumter, SC
Contact: Clay Smith or Scott Shipes
Www.adbc.org
clay@adbc.org

Call to Africa
Arab, AL
Contact: Ken Galyean
kgalyean@calltoafrica.org
Www.calltoafrica.org

Fair Haven Ministries
Citronelle, AL
Contact: Richard Winter
winterrb@netzero.com

Freedom Fellowship
Greer, SC
Mark Johnson, Team Leader
mark@johnsonfamilyweb.net

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church
Marietta, GA
www.jfbc.org
Contact: Jeff Williams or Ricky Wheeler
jeffreywilliams@aol.com
Ricky.wheeler@jfbc.org

Jim Nutt
One Goal Basketball Ministry
Dallas, TX
jimnutt@theshepherdsstaf.com

Kelly Green Evangelistic Ministries
Brandon, FL
Contact: Kelly Green
Www.kgea.org
Kelly@kellygreen.org

Manna Worldwide
Houston, TX
Contact: Sandy and Karen Baird
Www.mannaworldwide.org
karen4mannakids@yahoo.com

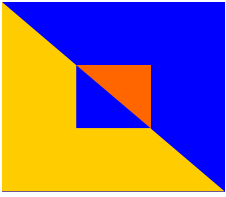
South Tampa Fellowship
Tampa, FL
Contacts: Todd Roberts, Jeff Sukup
todd@stfchurch.com
jeffs@stfchurch.com

Training in Mission Evangelism (T.I.M.E.)
Huntsville, AL
www.timeministries.com
Contacts: Donna Chisam donna@d-
pchisam.com or
Larry Wright, President, T.I.M.E.
info@timeministries.com or
ldwright@timeministries.com

True Love Waits International
Paul and Sally Cline, Consultants
16220 Hobblebush Circle
Moseley, VA 23120
804.423.8865 ©
paulsallycline@yahoo.com

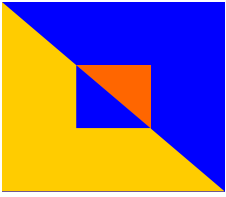
Valley View Baptist Church
Louisville, KY
Contact: Rev. Joel Carwile
pastorjoel@mchsi.com
Www.valleyviewchurch.org

Whitesburg Baptist Church
Huntsville, AL
www.wbccares.org
Contacts: Rev. John Crocker or
Dr. Terry Herald
john.crocker@wbccares.org or
terry.herald@wbccares.org



Listed herein is basic travel information for Botswana. This information applies to Botswana only. If the traveler is traveling to countries other than Botswana, she or he should research the requirements for entering and exiting the country.

1. A current passport is required to enter and exit Botswana. US passport holders are not required to secure a VISA for short-term mission trips. However, the traveler should always verify this information before traveling.
2. Because the transfer point is South Africa, it is necessary to have a minimum of four (4) blank pages with the word VISA on them in one's passport. Otherwise, the traveler may be denied travel out of the USA.
3. For information about a USA passport visit: <http://travel.state.gov/passport>.
4. Ensure that your passport is signed and that your emergency information is contained within.
5. Make copies of your Passport identification page. Leave at least one copy in the USA and pack at least one copy in your carry-on, not your checked, luggage.
6. Immunizations information is available at: www.cdc.gov.
7. Obey the laws of Botswana. While you are in a foreign country you are subject to its laws.
8. Cell phone service is widely available. Each team leader should arrange to have cell capabilities while in Botswana. A cell phone may be provided by OBC; however, the team leaders is responsible for purchasing adequate air time.
9. VISA debit cards are accepted at most bank ATMs. Master Card and AMEX cards do not work in the ATMs. It is advisable to contact your card company and notify them that you are traveling. This helps ensure that your card will not be denied once in country.
10. Leave a copy of your travel itinerary with a family member or friend.
11. Do not leave your luggage unattended in public areas. Do not accept packages from strangers. Comply with all TSA regulations.
12. It is advisable to register your departure with the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate through the State department's travel registration website. The site is: http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html.
13. Exchange money only at trusted locations. Do not exchange money with strangers. ATMs are available and money may also be exchanged at the hotel. It is better to keep only a small amount of money, less than \$100, on you at all times. You will only need it for souvenirs and small incidentals.
14. Travel light. Pack at least one change of clothes in your carry-on. Keep meds with you at all times.



15. If you wear glasses, pack an extra pair.
16. Keep medications in their original, labeled containers. Keep a list of all prescription and non-prescription drugs with you. Take the name and contact information for your primary care physician with you as well as documents related to all personal and travel insurance.
17. Clearly mark all of your luggage. It is a good idea to label your luggage with your flight itinerary also.
18. Dress modestly. Avoid sleeveless tops and shorts. If you are traveling to any small villages, this is even more important. Women should wear below the knee or longer skirts and modest tops; men should wear shirts with collars. On Sunday you are expected to dress up — men wear ties or an African shirt; women wear dresses especially in the villages.
19. Always confirm your return flight, especially if you were diverted on your inbound travel. Most often if you are diverted, your outbound travel is cancelled by the airlines.
20. Internet is available on a limited basis. It is slower than in the states. There is a fee for internet at the hotel. Wireless is available at Open Baptist Church. The further that you go from Gaborone, it is less likely that you will find internet.
21. Please verify with your Botswana host about taking photographs. In most areas it is not a problem; however, it is always best to ask. Video taping for filming purposes requires a government permit. Forms for the government must be completed months in advance.
22. Avoid talking regularly about the differences in the American way of life. Extend a hand of friendship and learn as much as you can about their way of life.
23. Learn a few simple Setswana words. Dumela = Good day. Mma = Lady. Rra = Male. For example when greeting a man, you would say “Dumela, Rra” or “Dumela Mma” if greeting a lady. Moruti = Pastor. Moruti Norman is the pastor of Open Baptist Church; Moruti James is the pastor of Naledi Baptist Fellowship; Moruti Andrew is the pastor in Mosojane; and Moruti David is pastor at Molepolole.
24. Pray and ask others to pray for you and your team! Enjoy your travels. Look for the silver lining the cloud! Marvel that you are part of something bigger than yourself! Sense God’s presence. Journal your experiences — BLOGS are wonderful.
25. Upon entry to Botswana you are required to give an address. Please state the name of your hotel or Pastor Norman Schaefer, Plot 15575, Broadhurst, Gaborone, Botswana.
26. Mind your manners. Botswana people are very polite. Please, thank you and other kind words are part of the culture. Your witness is more impactful when you are polite as well.
27. **PLEASE DO NOT GIVE MONEY OR OTHER GIFTS TO LOCAL INDIVIDUALS.** Any money or gifts, even candy, should be given to the local pastor, not individuals. This helps avoid many relational issues.