

## **Sturgis, SD Mission Trip - Information Sheet (Street Evangelism)**

TRIP DATES: (Fly)-Sat. Aug. 2 - Sat. Aug. 9 (Drive)-Fri. Jul. 31 - Mon. Aug. 11

COST: \$225 plus transportation (includes 2 meals) (airfare approx. \$350-800). \$50 deposit needed.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Sunday, April 20, 2008

TEAM: 20 Adults (men and women)

TRIP FOCUS: Street outreach & evangelism to bikers and visitors in Sturgis, SD

TRIP LEADER: Sam Connor (770) 252-9065

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **Q: What's the purpose of this trip?**

A: This is an outreach and evangelism trip. Everyone who goes will have hundreds of opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ with other people. In 2007, the 121 ministry volunteers recorded sharing their testimony or an evangelism video with over 4,700 people.

#### **Q: Why go to Sturgis, SD?**

A: We go because lost people go to Sturgis. We anticipate over 500,000 bikers traveling to Sturgis this week, for the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. A large percentage of this population group is non-churched. God loves them too, but He needs someone to tell them!

#### **Q: Who should consider going on this trip?**

A: Men and women over 18 who desire to share their faith, regardless of prior evangelism experience. You should be able to verbally give your Christian testimony to another. You should have a burden for lost people, and believe that God loves people that have sinned and appear to be far from Him. 100% of our group will get to share the gospel of Christ with someone.

#### **Q: What will we be doing on this trip?**

A: Our group from Crossroads will partner with the Dakota Baptist Convention to work a booth on Main Street in downtown Sturgis. We will show the love of Christ to people in the form of free water, free Bibles, gospel tracts, maybe coffee. Last year at this booth they registered people for a free Harley-Davidson Dyna Super Glide motorcycle. To register, people listened to a 3-minute testimony or watched an evangelism video. Over 870 people committed their heart to Jesus under this tent last year!

#### **Q: How does the application process work?**

A: Complete a standard Crossroads Church missions application. You do not have to be a member or attender of Crossroads Church to participate on this trip, but you must agree with the Crossroads Statement of Beliefs.

#### **Q: Can I afford to go, and what about financial support?**

A: The cost is expected to be \$225, plus airfare or transportation costs. Don't let lack of funds be a reason for not going on a mission trip. This trip was not proposed in the 2008 missions budget submission (Aug. 07), so there are no church funds budgeted for this trip. You are welcome to send financial support letters, and be reimbursed to the extent that you individually or our group collectively raises financial support.

#### **Q: Do I need to be a biker to go on this trip?**

A: No. While our target audience is bikers (and maybe some vendors or local people), you do not need to be a motorcyclist to offer a biker some water, or a tract, or give your testimony. Sharing the gospel with others works because of the Holy Spirit. You don't have to be a racing fan to share Christ at a NASCAR track, or be a football fan to witness outside of a football stadium.

#### **Q: What are the lodging arrangements?**

A: When you bring 500,000 visitors to a town of 6,400 people – the cost of lodging can get inflated (hotels - up to \$450 per night, campsites - up to \$1,500/wk.). We will stay at local churches, in their gyms, Sunday school rooms, fellowship halls, etc. Bring an air mattress, sleeping bag, or cot. Portable showers will be provided. The local churches will provide transportation between downtown and the church.

**Q: What about airfare?**

A: Airfare is a supply-demand business. The closer you get to August - the higher the cost of airfare, if flights are available. In Sept. 2007, airfare was \$544-725. In Jan. 2008, airfare was \$350-920, Mar. 2008 was \$688-1290. Last year airfare in May was \$1,100-1,700. Purchase your airplane ticket early!

**Q: What about food?**

A: Since we may have different shifts at the ministry tent, and different lunch breaks, it's difficult to plan group meals, so generally you're on your own for food. We will have 2 group meals together. There are over 900 vendors in downtown Sturgis, so there are plenty of food choices.

**Q: Why over 18 only? Aren't kids allowed in Sturgis?**

A: Some attenders bring their children to Sturgis, but it's not the most wholesome environment. Our group will be exposed to heavy drinking (particularly after 6 pm), some skimpily-clothed women, and foul language. If you stay away from the bars, and the campground "contests" (bikini/T-shirt), you probably will not see any nudity, particularly before 11 pm. We will only take those over 18. The ministry tent is open 10 am - 8 pm, and we recommend socializing at the church after 9 pm.

**Q: Will there be a non-ministry day?**

A: We plan to take most of a day and take an optional side trip to Mt. Rushmore (was the largest granite sculpture in the U.S.), and the Crazy Horse Memorial (now the largest sculpture in the U.S.) This side trip is expected to cost \$26 (included in the \$225 estimated trip cost).

**Q: Can I drive a car or motorcycle to Sturgis, and avoid airfare?**

A: If you can get to Sturgis (1,600 miles each way) by Sun. night Aug. 3 and stay through Friday evening Aug. 8, and arrange your own route & transportation, then of course. That requirement is just to ensure we are helping our ministry partners, and ministering to our target audience, not just traveling to and from Sturgis.

**Q: How does Sturgis compare to other events?**

A: In terms of visitors, easy # 1. Other biker rallies: Daytona - 400,000; Laconia - 350,000; Myrtle Beach - 300,000. Other events: Mardi Gras - 400,000; Summer Olympics - 250,000; Kentucky Derby - 160,000; Super Bowl - 120,000. Official statistics for Sturgis: in 2007 - 507,234; in 2006 - 456,968; in 2005 - 525,250; in 2000 - 633,000. Sturgis is considered to have the most visitors of any event in the world!

**Q: What about crime in Sturgis?**

A: It's virtually non-existent most of the year. When half a million visitors roll into town - theft of motorcycles (15-25 per year), traffic violations (188), drunkenness (120), misdemeanor drugs (138), fighting (25), felony drugs (13), public nudity (2).

**Q: What about follow-up?**

A: At the rally, those that make a profession of faith will get a Bible, a new believer discipleship book, and a letter encouraging them to connect with a church home. ND/SD residents are followed up by the Dakota Baptist Convention, and others are referred by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to churches in the new believers' home area.

**Q: What's the history of this biker rally?**

A: The Sturgis Rally is the second oldest biker rally in the U.S. (first being Laconia). Pappy Hoel, a local motorcycle dealer, hosted a race and stunt rally (with 19 participants) in Aug. 1938. Held each year (except during WWII), Sturgis has grown to be the biggest rally in the world. 2008 will be the 68<sup>th</sup> rally.

**Q: What about team meetings & training?**

A: April 20 at 12:30 pm	Crossroads, Room 113	Informational Meeting, training
June 1 at 12:30 pm	Crossroads, Room 113	Team Meeting, training
July 27 at 12:30 pm	Crossroads, Room 113	Team Meeting, training