

WHO WE ARE

Search for One, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization founded in 1992 by Craig and Remy Scott of Gladstone, Oregon (a suburb of Portland, Oregon), with the purpose to provide needed health services to remote and isolated people of the world. Through Craig's desire to serve humanity and Remy's upbringing on an island in the Philippines came the decision at that time to focus their attention on relieving the suffering of remote island people.

In 1994 SFO was asked to consider providing health and development assistance to the people who live on the islands of the Republic of Kiribati (the former Gilbert Islands), located halfway between Hawaii and Australia where the Equator and the International Date Line meet. Kiribati is the least developed country in the Pacific, with the shortest life expectancy (52 years for men in 1992). There are about 90,000 people on the 21 inhabited islands. With only 8 physicians, they have the lowest physician/population ratio of all the South Pacific island nations, and no dentists exist on any of the islands.

The **vision** of *Search for One* is to provide each of the remote people we serve with an avenue to a healthier and more purposeful life. By caring for their health needs and loving them we aim to open the door to a deep and life-changing Christian experience.

SFO has constructed three houses and a cookhouse at our base camp on Abemama Island. Herman Taaia (a Kiribati local) serves as the captain of our 26-foot MacGregor power and sailing vessel used for inter-island transportation and we will soon have a 6 place, twin-engine Piper Aztec airplane in service to transport teams to the more distant outer islands. From January 1997 through the end of July 1999 ten teams provided approximately \$700,000.00 worth of services for the people of Kiribati.

Our areas of service include the following:

- Dental teams
- Medical teams
- Developing fresh water systems
- Developing safe sanitation systems
- Developing soil through composting (islands contain no soil, only coral sand)
- Training in gardening
- Training in healthful living

We always have opportunities available for short-term as well as long-term volunteers. We ask that our short-term volunteers serve for a minimum of two weeks and that our long-term volunteers commit to a minimum of six months of service.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

- **Dentists and Dental Assistants** are urgently needed short-term to do extractions, cleanings, and fillings for people on the outer islands.
- **Medical Doctors** work at the clinic at Kauma High School located on Abemama island and travel to outer islands, using clinic visits to teach people how their health is affected by their lifestyle. Also long term paid positions are available at the Tarawa hospital.
- **Nurses** work with volunteer doctors in Kauma High School. and travel to more remote islands.
- **Health Educators** travel with medical and dental teams, teaching healthful living to children and adults.
- An **Activities Director** will work with the health educator to provide educational activities for children.
- **Airplane Pilots** will fly a twin-engine airplane loaded with volunteers and supplies from island to island.
- **Airplane Mechanics** are needed to maintain the plane.
- **Gardening Teachers** are needed to help local people create and maintain compost gardens (the minimum stay is one month per island).
- A **Builder** is needed to demonstrate and teach local people how to build simple designed composting toilets and rain-catchment systems from materials that are locally available.
- A **Cook** to prepare appetizing, healthful meals for hungry volunteers, using limited food supplies.
- The **Mission Host** coordinates the SFO volunteer teams as well as acts as a liaison between the volunteer teams and local island governments.

SHOULD I VOLUNTEER?

Adaptability

Are you able to adjust to different situations? Life in Kiribati may require adjustments with food, lifestyle, living quarters, language, entertainment, companionship, shopping, and worship. Can you work with people without prejudice as to race, color and other religious persuasions?

Belief

Will your spiritual relationship with God strengthen and sustain you without destroying others? It will take a strong commitment to keep focused on the reason we are there--to help make this world a better place while preparing for eternity.

Cooperation

Do you work well with others? Are you a team player? All members of the team must work well together to accomplish the task.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Republic of Kiribati, formerly the Gilbert Islands, straddles both the Equator and the International Date Line in the Pacific Ocean. The national territory extends over 2 million square miles, but the land area is less than that of New York City. The 33 islands (21 of which are inhabited) are grouped into the Gilbert Islands (including Tarawa, the capital), the Phoenix Islands, and the Line Islands. It is more than 2,000 miles from the eastern point on Christmas Island to the western point on Banaba.

A Micronesian population first settled in the islands around 200 AD. Another wave of Polynesians came from Samoa in the 13th century. Inter-marriage among the inhabitants of the atolls provided a homogenous Micronesian culture.

Spanish explorers first sighted Christmas Island in 1537. Captain Cook encountered the islands in 1777. Commercial activities in the region began in the 19th century. Deserting crews from whaling ships settled in the islands in the 1830's. Trading ships established a flourishing copra and coconut trade, as well as illicit human traffic.

Great Britain established the High Commission for the Western Pacific in 1877 to oversee the islands and their European inhabitants. Ocean Island was annexed in 1900 when valuable phosphate deposits were discovered there. Gradually all of the islands were brought under the commission's jurisdiction. Japanese forces occupied the Gilberts for a time during World War II.

When the phosphate deposits on Banaba were nearly depleted, the British gradually granted self-government and finally independence on 12 July 1979. The United States also renounced its claims to the Line and Phoenix Islands. They wanted to call their new country "Tungaru," the Kiribati name of the Gilbert Island group. Since it sounded too similar to Tuvalu, the new name the Ellice Islanders had chosen; they took the name "Kiribati," based on the pronunciation of "Gilberts" in the indigenous language, which has only 13 letters in its alphabet. The Gilbertese people of Kiribati are known as I-Kiribati and speak the Gilbertese language also known as Kiribati.

Since independence, a president elected by universal adult suffrage from candidates nominated by the elected unicameral parliament has served as head of state. Both the president and members of the legislature (subject to dissolution) serve 4-year terms. The islands are divided into six administrative districts, but each local island council has broad powers. Income from fishing rights and interest from a A\$15 million trust fund won from the British for strip mining Banaba provide the major resources for running the country. Kiribati is one of the nations whose very existence is threatened by a possible rise in sea level due to global warming, since all of the islands except volcanic Banaba are low coralline structures with few elevations above 13 feet.

CUSTOMS OF KIRIBATI (VERY IMPORTANT)

In general:

- Don't touch anyone on the head, especially on the top of the head, even cute kids.
- Don't cut across peoples' line of eye contact when they are talking. Go behind, or if this is impossible and you are in a hurry, duck down to pass, making sure you are below eye level. This probably doesn't apply to children.
- Ask before you photograph. The word for photograph is *tamnei*, the same as for "spirit."
- Retreat from the well to the approved distance before washing your body or hands with well water.

- Bikinis and swimsuits for women are not suitable in Kiribati. Dress as the locals.
- Avoid anything that looks like work on a Sunday. The further south you go the more seriously this is taken.

In the Maneaba:

- If you can't sit cross-legged, then stick your feet out behind you, pointing your legs out from the building. Be prepared to sit and listen for long periods of time.
- Even though it may get crowded, don't step over anybody's outstretched legs. Make great efforts to walk behind people when moving around. Certainly you should never cut across the open "debating space" in the middle.
- As a stranger you may be expected to make a little speech about who you are and where you came from. You will also be expected to eat first.
- If you have gas and must break wind, make your excuses and retire well out of earshot. It is considered extremely offensive to expel gas in public.
- Resist all attempts to let anybody put you on a chair for "comfort." Relative height correlates with the status you assume and modesty is much appreciated.
- If you are anticipating a long session, don't just grab the nearest post and sit back against it. Each post belongs to a clan or family. Check which is the visitors' section or sit with your host family. One of those little backrests you can get in any recreation and equipment supply stores would be just great.

In the canoe builder's shed:

- Don't pass any object across the top of the partly finished canoe. Pass it underneath or around.

In the house:

- Make sure that all hair trimmings and nail clippings are carefully burned. Failure to do so may make your hosts uneasy as they believe it leaves you vulnerable to magic spells.
- Take your shoes off indoors or when sitting on the "*te ba*" (coconut leaf mid-rib flooring) is a good idea.

In the street:

- If you are riding a motor cycle or bicycle on an outer island and passing a "serious" maneaba which is in session, you should dismount and push it past.
- While driving watch out for kids.
- Remember to drive on the left side of the road.

WHAT WILL IT COST?

Search for One will be responsible for:

- Providing fund-raising ideas and our newsletter *The Voyager*.
- Conducting an orientation to help you know what to expect.
- Providing basic food, housing, and local transportation while on the mission.

You will be responsible for:

- Securing your passport (US\$70) and visa (A\$40, if required).
- Raising travel expenses (\$1300-\$1900 for airfare, plus motel room and food during stopovers review your itinerary).
- Your personal health needs.

Your Travel Arrangements:

Roundtrip airfare from _____ to Tarawa \$ _____
Overnight stay at _____
Passport, visa, and photos _____
Medical and vaccinations _____

FUND-RAISING SUGGESTIONS

- Figure out your budget.
- Define your purpose, the cause for which you are seeking support.
- List 100 people you know.
- Prioritize your list in groups of ten people that are most interested in you and your life down to those who are least interested.
- Write a cover letter thanking people for their involvement in your life to date, telling them about this exciting opportunity to serve in this island nation, letting them know specifically what you will be doing, and the budget it will take for you to be involved.
- Ask the important question, "Would you consider joining me in this exciting opportunity?" Close by saying you will follow this letter up with a phone call in one week.
- Enclose a newsletter or other information about the project.
- Make a phone call one week later and ask them for a specific amount based on what you think they can contribute to your project.
- Follow up with a kind thank-you note and maybe a copy of a newspaper article about the project.
- Send this letter to the top ten names on your list. Wait a few days and send to the next ten and on down till your money is raised.
- If people need a tax-deductible receipt have them send their donation for you to *Search for One* with a note on a separate piece of paper that it is for your project. They must make their checks out to *Search for One* with your name on the memo line.
- Arrange to give a presentation about the project at churches and civic groups.

Most Successful - Personal solicitation with the phrase "Would you consider..."

Somewhat Successful - A phone call after a letter.

Least Successful - A letter alone.

PLANNING STAGES

Getting acquainted:

- Learn more about *Search for One* (check our web site at www.searchforone.org) and the Republic of Kiribati; check our links page on our web site and your local library for books about the islands. Talk to someone who has been there. It is not necessary to learn to speak Kiribati unless you want to pick up a few key words and phrases. English is the official language and translators are available.
- Send in your completed “Application for Service” (one form for each member of the family who is planning to go).
- Applications will be reviewed by *Search for One* and if accepted, you will be notified by mail of your assignment to a team.

Getting ready to go:

- Make sure you have a passport that is valid for six months beyond your term of service. New passports may take two months to process. Ten-day service costs extra.
- Bring your immunizations up to date. None are required, but vaccinations for hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid and tetanus are recommended. Vaccinations for hepatitis require at least one month to become effective.
- Raise money for your travel expenses. You can contact your travel agent or ours, Travel Associates, at 1-888-474-7744 or (503) 635-6622 to determine how much money you will need and when you must have it in order to go.
- Confirm your flight schedule with *Search for One* and your travel agent. Get your **tickets** as soon as possible. It is wise to call your airline carrier 72 hours before departure for all international flights to confirm your ticket.

ENJOYING YOUR STAY ON KIRIBATI

Money

Kiribati is an undeveloped third-world country. The main island of Tarawa has limited shopping and a bank where you can use your Visa and MasterCard to receive cash advances for which there is a A\$15 charge. The monetary unit is the Australian dollar, which "floats" on the international money market, as does our dollar. At present the rate is about sixty-one American cents for one Australian dollar. Canadian dollars are not currently bought in Kiribati. When shopping or sightseeing, do not carry more money than you want to spend. Keep your money, tickets and other valuables in a safe place.

Transportation

Search for One provides inter-island transportation with a boat that has two independent operating systems--sails and an outboard motor. The vessel has positive flotation so she will remain afloat even in the worst of emergencies. It is equipped with a satellite text communication system and has its own water maker to sustain life should her crew ever be stranded. A new addition to reach the outer islands faster is a six place, twin engine Piper Aztec airplane. This plane is being certified by the FAA and is a proven design for effective delivery.

Food

Search for One provides our volunteers with a vegetarian menu. Meals will be simple, nutritious and appetizing. Local social gatherings will typically serve fish, rice, bananas, and local foods that may be new to you. Because there is little or no refrigeration do not expect meat on any menu. The following is a rough guide to eating risks:

Generally safe: Hot, cooked and fried foods; fruits that you peel; bottled drinks.

Less safe: Salads and fresh fruit prepared by someone else; dairy products; street vendor food.

High risk: Tap water and ice made with un-bottled water; raw seafood and rare meat; un-refrigerated prepared food.

Water

While staying in a hot and humid area, volunteers will need to drink a lot of water to keep from becoming dehydrated. Water should not be consumed unless it has been boiled, been through a purifier, or is bottled. "Clean" water will be provided while you are working with the team.

Lodging

Lodging at the base camp on Abemama Island is built out of coconut logs and thatch, which is the local village style. The camp has running water, and in-hut showers and composting toilets. On other islands the team will lodge in a large thatched-roof meeting house. Some islands have bush toilets and unheated showers while others are more primitive. *Search for One* has "Sun Showers" that you may use. Volunteers will need to bring their own bedding including some type of mattress and sheet and netting that can be thrown over the rafters and tucked under the mattress.

Climate

The climate is typical tropical weather. The temperature is approximately 90° degrees in the day and around 80° degrees at night with about 80% humidity year-round. There are two rainy seasons during the year: December to February and June to August. There is little danger from typhoons since they originate in the equatorial region and move north or south. Occasionally there is an extra-high tide, but Kiribati has not suffered the effects of a *tsunami* tidal wave.

Immunizations

Go to a travel clinic in your area. Make sure your immunizations are up to date, especially a tetanus booster less than ten years old. Vaccinations are recommended for typhoid and hepatitis A and B. Hepatitis is endemic in the islands. While there is no specific cure for hepatitis, it can be prevented with a vaccination and carefulness. Hepatitis A is contracted by eating or drinking contaminated food or fluids. Hepatitis B is spread by contaminated bodily fluids. Always take precautions.

Dress

The people of Kiribati are very conservative in dress. They are very conscious of how their clothes lay when they sit or stand. Men and women wear lava-lavas (fabric wrapped around the waist extending below the knees) with a t-shirt or blouse. Volunteers may wear their scrubs with knee-length shorts. You may cut along the sides of your scrubs for airflow or cut them below the knee. According to the local customs it is inappropriate and offensive for women to have their knees exposed. When you are not working, please wear long shorts, pants, or skirts with sandals or tennis shoes.

Swimming

Women's bathing suits are very offensive to the islanders. Long shorts and a shirt are considered appropriate swimming attire. Swim only in well-maintained, chlorinated pools or ocean water known to be free from pollution. Watch out for coral, stinging jellyfish, poisonous fish, and sea snakes. Reduce problems relating to sun exposure by using sunglasses, wide-brimmed hats, sunscreen lotion, and lip protection.

Hospitality

When visiting with the Kiribati people, be gracious and accept their acts of hospitality to you and the team. Maintaining high moral standards among the people is very appreciated in this culture. Small, simple gifts of love such as note pads, balloons, stickers, frisbees, balls, hair ribbons, decorative pens/pencils, candy or gum make nice expressions of your friendship with the children. Please do not promise any care to patients or orphans, as many times they cannot receive US help. It is also normal to be asked for clothes, money, and other items by those you are helping.

WHAT DO I TAKE?

- Bible and personal reading material
- Current passport and picture ID (Get visa in Tarawa if required)
- Sheets and pillow
- Thermorest pad to sleep comfortably (camping mattress)
- Mosquito netting and insect repellent
- Sun block, UV protecting sun glasses, and hat
- Several changes of loose fitting, light cotton clothing--scrubs work great
- Long khaki shorts and T-shirts or polo shirts
- Light cotton underwear
- Comfortable sandals and reef walkers
- Water purifier, pump or tablets
- Toilet paper and disposable towelettes (Available on Tarawa only)
- Bath towel, washcloth, soap, shampoo in small containers
- Health insurance
- Prescriptions in sufficient supply
- Medications for pain, allergies, and diarrhea
- Swiss army knife or Leatherman tool
- Snacks like nuts, dried fruit, power bars, and other easy to carry items
- Compact 35mm camera with extra film and batteries
- Durable waterproof flashlight with extra bulb and batteries
- Reliable, durable, water-resistant, relatively inexpensive watch
- Small, inexpensive gifts (children love balloons)
- Fanny pack and a small day pack
- Luggage should be durable, flexible, light weight, lockable, and easy to carry

Remember some things are not available in Kiribati so plan accordingly:

240-voltage adaptor, battery charger, quality batteries, quality knives, duct tape, snorkeling gear, film, etc.

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Electrical appliances without electrical converters (240 to 110 volt operation)
- Heavy make-up
- Winter clothing, revealing clothes, bikinis
- Firearms, explosives, flammables, or illegal drugs

THE TOURIST CODE OF ETHICS

- Travel in a spirit of humility. Have a genuine desire to learn more about the people of Kiribati by understanding their customs, habits and ways of thinking. Learn about local customs and practice them.
- Be considerate; avoid anything that might be considered offensive in terms of manners, dress, photography, etc.
- Express curiosity to the point of indicating an interest in their way of life. People appreciate the opportunity to tell you about themselves.
- Familiarize yourself at least to some degree with the history of Kiribati. Instead of the Western practice of "knowing all the answers," cultivate the habit of listening, observing, and asking questions.
- Don't expect that everyone will speak English. Remember you are the foreigner. In a group of peers, they tend to speak Kiribati. Individuals are more apt to practice speaking English with you in private.
- Be friendly. Your friendliness will usually bring out friendliness in them. The golden rule is universal: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
- Accept the people as they are. Do not measure them by our standards. Respect their culture and don't expect them to adopt American ways of thinking.
- Make no promises you cannot keep, such as helping them to find jobs in the US or travel to the US, etc. What you suggest in casual conversation may be taken very seriously.
- Recognize and work with local leadership that is already established and esteemed by the people.
- When shopping, please remember that this is their only source of income. Remember we are their guests and want to leave a **good** "western" impression.

Your Adventure Begins:

- On occasion SFO may request that volunteers carry additional medical supplies along with personal luggage whenever possible to simplify the customs process. Make sure your two pieces of luggage do not exceed 62" linear dimensions (height + width + length) and weigh less than 44 pounds each. You are also allowed two hand-carried items (including camera bags and purses) that do not exceed 9" x 15" x 20". Excess baggage fees on international carriers are very expensive and they are usually stricter on the return portion of the trip.
- Check-in at the airport two hours prior to your international flight. Unless you are staying overnight, check your luggage through as far as possible so you won't have to transfer it. It is wise to put things you want during your trip or upon arrival in your carry-on in case your checked luggage doesn't arrive on schedule.
- You will be responsible for all your meals and accommodations between the States and Tarawa. Australian currency is used throughout Kiribati.
- Keep your passport safely with you at all times. All international travelers must pass through customs, which includes a baggage check. To avoid import duty, items that you are with the *Search for One* in a dental or medical team.
- Arrangements have been made for our volunteers so you may not have to pay the A\$40 visa fee. Upon arrival a member of the SFO team will be at the airport to assist you.

Returning Home:

- An evaluation form needs to be filled out and turned into SFO's main office so we can make the next project even more enjoyable and successful. Fill out the incident report if there was a situation that you felt was potentially hazardous.
- Be sure to confirm your return flight 72 hours before departure. Arrive at the airport two hours before the departure time of your return flight. If you're taking anything local made out of plant material, have it sprayed by the quarantine inspector so it will pass inspection when you arrive home.
- Take time to recover from jet lag. Share with your friends. Tell them about the great time you had and encourage them to participate in a *Search for One* project. Do not forget to thank your sponsors and give them a report of your trip.

VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

This agreement is entered into by you, the undersigned, and *Search for One*, Inc. for the purpose of understanding our relationship in carrying out the mission through our joint efforts. When your application is approved, official notification will be sent to you by mail (USPS).

1. I agree to maintain the highest moral conduct.
2. I agree that all arrangements for my travel and comfort while in transit to and from the country of service are my responsibility.
3. I agree to abstain from using any alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or drugs not prescribed by my physician at any time that I am engaged in a *Search for One* project.
4. I agree to provide my own medical insurance and to consult with my own physician concerning my health needs as a missionary.
5. I agree to take full responsibility for my own actions, being responsible to myself and to *Search for One*. I will make my needs known in the most professional manner possible, staying within the chain of authority and always working in a manner most constructive for the purpose of *Search for One*.
6. I agree to settle any disputes directly with *Search for One* and, if unresolved, with a Christian arbitration agency of our mutual agreement.
7. I agree that, as a volunteer, I am making this agreement, being of sound mind and understand what I am entering into, will hold *Search for One, Inc.*, financially harmless for any damage, injury, or loss caused by my own actions or by events which would be considered accidental and unpreventable in nature.
8. *Search for One* agrees to provide as much assistance as possible concerning travel arrangements, scheduling and notifications of *Search for One's* expectations. However, *Search for One* operates on limited, donated funds and cannot anticipate actions, which may change the ability to provide such assistance to the volunteer missionary.
9. I understand that there are no embalming facilities in Kiribati and I agree that if I should pass away, my body will be buried there in Kiribati.

By signing and submitting this application, I signify that I have read the Volunteer Manual, agree to the terms of the Volunteer Agreement, and that all information in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Date: _____