

Uganda 2025

Learning and Relationship Trip to JENGA

Where: Mbale, Uganda

What: Visiting JENGA, a Trinity partner organization to learn from and build relationships with their team and community. (Find out about JENGA here:

<https://www.facebook.com/JENGAUganda>)

When: May 14-29, 2025

Cost: ~\$4000 (final 2025 pricing TBD) which includes your flight, group transportation to/from the airport, all transportation in-country, all accommodations, all in-country meals, travelers insurance, and group meetings. Payment to Trinity Church does **not** include: vaccinations/prophylactics (varies based on insurance), and travel visa to enter the country (\$50).

(Note: if finances are a challenge please don't hesitate to reach out to Andy Hayball to speak about options for assistance).

Application Deadline: February 11, 2025

[Apply Here!](#)

An ideal trip participant is someone who is ...

- ... eager to see and explore how God is at work in a different global context.
- ... a learner, who approaches new experiences with curiosity.
- ... flexible and patient, able to adapt when plans or circumstances change.
- ... in overall good health (physical, mental etc.)
- ... a committed follower of Jesus, who affirms the [Trinity Church statement of faith](#) & [Leadership Commitments](#) (see links).
- ... a current regular attendee at Trinity Church services, known and accountable to Trinity leadership (i.e. Trinity is your “home church”).

FAQs

Why JENGA in Mbale, Uganda? Who are they?

Trinity has had multiple connections to JENGA for many years now including former missionaries; Lorraine Bixler; Al and Christy Valentine. It is clear that the Holy Spirit is at work in Eastern Uganda. We have tangibly seen that God is multiplying our efforts via JENGA, which is changing the spiritual and physical landscape in the region. We believe that this organization is anointed and want to step into the work that God is already doing in this special place.

JENGA is a team of around 30 staff members composed of Ugandan employees and international volunteers. JENGA's structure is multifold. As a Christian organization, they have planted 10 churches around Mbale in 10 years. They have also created and now manage more than 35 different community development outreach projects to reach the practical needs of some of the most vulnerable in the area, including but not limited to: water, education, child sponsorship, entrepreneurship, prison outreach, A.A., farming, mental health, hospital outreach, and income-generating projects. We are proud to partner with this holistic organization.

What is the purpose of our trips to Uganda?

At Trinity we talk about having a "Ministry of Presence" on trips. Our focus is on relationships over "results." Jesus is our example of a ministry of presence; He healed the sick, fed thousands, and performed miracles but spent most of His time simply being with others. While we certainly value tangible development results, give financially to our partner organizations, bring donations, and do work with them, our ultimate goal is to have a two-way dialogue and mutual teaching/learning relationship with God's people around the globe.

Is it safe?

There is always a risk whenever and wherever you travel. That said, Uganda is generally safe and stable. As a team, we take precautionary measures to help ourselves. Leaders are individuals who have been to the area multiple times. We choose reliable airlines, enlist drivers who are JENGA-approved and know the roads, we travel in groups and during the daylight hours, vaccinations and prophylactics are required, we bring first aid, register with the US Embassy, and we include group travelers insurance into the trip fee.

What will we do?

Most days we will join the JENGA staff in their weekly outreach projects, praying and helping where we can. Again, the goal is to see how God is at work in Mbale, and support JENGA through building relationship. You have much more to offer than you might expect!

A typical day in Mbale might look like:

- Breakfast at our hotel (some Western options usually available)
- Visit / minister at a JENGA project (e.g. AA group, children's program, coffee farming, hospital visitation etc.)
- Lunch of local food
- Visit second project
- Dinner either with a Ugandan family or at restaurant/hotel
- Evening debrief and devotional time

Are there requirements/limitations?

- Requirements
 - A valid passport
 - Trinity Trip Application
 - Vaccinations (yellow fever is required to enter the country, others likely to be recommended by your physician) and antimalarial pills
 - General good health
 - Background check (available through Trinity) and waiver
 - Attend all pre-trip meetings/orientations
 - The minimum age is 12 years old and a parent must accompany any minors.

- Limitations:
 - Physical factors should be considered as you will also be encountering other taxing aspects of the trip that can be compounding: cultural differences, emotionally and spiritually heavy situations or stories.
 - Travel to the final destination is long, with two flights totaling 18 hours. Jet lag is 7 hours behind Eastern time. Once in Uganda it is a further 6-7 hour drive to Mbale in a vehicle without AC on sometimes bumpy roads.
 - Accommodations: this year we will be staying at the Mount Elgon hotel which provides more Western-style accommodations. Rooms will be shared (2 of same gender, or married couples) and you should be prepared for power outages, lack of internet etc.
 - While out at a project there may be no latrine or simply a hole in the ground.
 - We will be at a much higher altitude.
 - Local Ugandan food is quite different from American norms; usually including a lot of starches (rice and beans is a typical meal). We will have some Western meals during the trip but many will be “local”.
 - All Trinity and JENGA volunteers must abstain from alcohol consumption, smoking/vaping, and/or illicit drugs of any kind for the entire trip, including flights.

Will we see animals?

Unfortunately, we cannot add a safari to this trip. Occasionally we will see a baboon or two on the drive from the airport to our final destination.

[Apply Here!](#)