

Information for Planning Possible Volunteer Team Engagement on Grand Bahama

December 2019

There are currently two CBF Bahamas communities on Grand Bahama that are ready to receive volunteer teams:

- The homes of members and the pastor (Grace Pinder) of Mission of Hope Ministry in Freeport
- Sweetings Cay, an island fishing community off the east end of Grand Bahama

Volunteer teams should plan to travel to Freeport by plane on Sunday, serve in recovery communities from Monday through Friday, and depart on Saturday morning. For more information about plane tickets and travel logistics support, contact Sabine Crysler, CBF Travel Manager at travel@cbf.net or call (866)291-7809.

Sweetings Cay

Wind and storm surge damage on the east side of Grand Bahama was very severe. Of five CBF Bahamas church communities located on Grand Bahama, two on the east side of the island (McLean's Town and Pelican Point) will require more time before recovery efforts can begin. Although rebuilding is expected to begin soon in the Freetown Community, **initial efforts will be focused on Sweeting Cay** where travel to the location requires approximately a 50-minute drive from Freeport and a further 10-minute boat trip to the island. To conserve both time and travel budgets, it is recommended that volunteer teams stay in tent accommodations on the property of Ebenezer Baptist Church on Sweetings Cay.

With no electricity or other public utilities expected to be available for months, the church is using solar panels to provide power with an air-to-water generator providing drinking water. The church has running water for showers and functioning toilets. Given these challenging conditions, members of recovery teams serving on Sweeting Cay are expected to be **healthy, mature and skilled**. Teams should be no larger than five persons with two tents to accommodate male and female guests. It is recommended that volunteers bring sleeping bags.

Volunteers should bring extra snacks as well as tea/coffee and French press.

Due to limited lodging space, only one team (no more than six members) can be hosted at a time on Sweetings Cay (open dates are the second and fourth full weeks of each month). A \$500 registration fee must be paid via the CBF Disaster Response Bahamas webpage (<https://cbf.net/dr-bahamas>) to reserve a time slot and location of service.

Other costs related to service on Sweetings Cay include:

- Food - \$30 per person per day (provided by community members)
- Lodging – No charge (camping). Bring sleeping bags.
- Round-trip between Freeport and Sweetings Cay by van and boat - \$450 per team by van between Freeport and McLean's Town and \$200 per team by boat between McLean's Town and Sweetings Cay.

Cell phone coverage now extends to Sweetings Cay. Wifi may possibly be available.

Freeport

Freeport, on the western end of Grand Bahama, is the second largest city in the Bahamas, accessible by air and sea. Although the effects of Hurricane Dorian were more severe on the eastern end of Grand Bahama, significant damage occurred in and around Freeport as well.

Mission of Hope Ministry, pastored by Grace Pinder, is the only affected CBF Bahamas church community located in Freeport. Volunteer teams are requested to assist with repairs to homes and other property, including roofs and interiors.

Other costs related to service at Mission of Hope Ministry include:

- Stay at Island Seas Resort (<https://www.islandseas.com/>) – Rooms that can accommodate six people – total cost of \$195 per night (\$32.50 per person if six people occupy a room) or rooms that accommodate up to four people at \$165 per night (\$41.25 per person). Gender considerations will be needed for room reservations and related costs.
- Local travel - \$450 for team of 4-10
- Meals - \$45 per person per day

Mission of Hope Ministry can accommodate teams comprised of up to 10 people.

General Information

Based on location of team preference, CBF Bahamas will communicate the type of work (i.e., roof repair, interior repair, clean up) that each team will engage in. CBF Bahamas will also coordinate with CBF Disaster Response to order and ship needed building materials.

Teams are requested to travel to Grand Bahama via Freeport on Sunday to serve from Monday through Friday, departing on Saturday morning. For more information about plane tickets and travel logistics support, contact Sabine Crysler, CBF Travel Manager at travel@cbf.net or call (866)291-7809

CBF Bahamas church communities in recovery on Grand Bahama

McLean's Town

- Pastor: Edwin Pender
- Church building and pastor's home completely destroyed
- 75 church members – community was severely damaged

Sweeting Cay

- Pastor: Pedyson Baillou
- Church building and pastor's home completely destroyed
- 67 members – community was severely damaged
- Initial focus of CBF Disaster Response efforts on Grand Bahama
- Approximately a 50-minute drive from Freeport and a 10-minute boat trip

Pelican Point

- Pastor: Freddie Laing
- Church building and pastor's home completely destroyed
- 75 members – community was severely damaged

Freetown

- Pastor: Preston Cooper
- Church building exterior had minimal damage with interior severely damaged
- 85 members – significant damage to the community, but somewhat less than other parts of the island

Mission of Hope Ministry (Freeport)

- Pastor – Grace Pinder
- Damage to homes and property of church members

Additional information

After registration, a more detailed information sheet regarding service on North Abaco will be sent to each team leader.

Questions? Contact Rick Burnette, CBF Disaster Response Manager, rburnette@cbf.net