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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What exactly are you doing?

A: I am joining a U.S. organization called [Global Crossroad](#) which offers volunteer internships around the world as well as paid teaching placements. Because of their expertise in coordinating volunteer efforts, they have put together a tsunami relief and reconstruction project for the affected areas in Sri Lanka. I will join them in Sri Lanka for two weeks from April 1- April 14 and build whatever project needs to be completed during that time for my assigned area.

Q: How did you find out about this effort?

A: This [article from USA Today](#) on 1/21/2005.

Q: How are you able to take Two Weeks Off?

A: I work from home and have a laptop which allows me to work remotely if I need to, but taking off a few weeks isn't generally a problem.

Q: Why are you doing this?

A: I've always been touched by those who do more with less. I'd rather not sit this one out while watching those devastated communities with NOTHING do more. Specifically, I have the available time, physical ability to help with construction, and the necessary funds to get over there. The only thing left is the will to go. I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the sense of adventure wrapped up in this which is certainly a compelling part of traveling across the globe to help those in need. However, I must say without Global Crossroad I'm not sure I would have had this opportunity, so a big thank you goes out to them.

Q: How can I help?

A: Read about the program at [GlobalCrossroad.com](#) and decide if you are able to personally volunteer. If so, send me a message through my [Contact](#) page after you've already registered with their site or if you have any questions for me. There is an immediate deposit of \$200 required with your online application with the balance to be paid upon placement. If you are unable to volunteer but would still like to help with this effort monetarily then please read my [donation](#) page to learn how the funds are spent on our tsunami reconstruction project.

Q: Reconstruction for 2 weeks sounds difficult. What if I'd like to be a volunteer in Sri Lanka, but just to distribute aid or get involved with general cleanup?

A: There is another program with Global Crossroad called "[The Tsunami Relief Volunteer Program](#)". It primarily involves cleaning devastated areas, the distribution of aid, and the building of temporary shelters. They do not develop any reconstruction project. It's fee is only \$599 due to not needing the additional \$400 donation for construction materials.

Q: I'd be happy to help support your effort with a donation. How much should I give?

A: Great! Any amount from \$1 + will be greatly appreciated.

Q: What will you be reconstructing?

A: I do not know at this time. I have yet to be placed with a specific project but I will update this site as soon as I am notified.

Q: When do you leave?

A: My project dates are April 1-April 14 but I am required to be there a day or two prior to April 1st. The flight to Sri Lanka will take nearly 2 days so I will be leaving around Easter on March 27th. I have not yet bought my airline tickets so my exact dates aren't known. I'll need more project information myself before deciding on my exact flight dates.

Q: Why not sooner than April 1st?

A: There are several precautions that require some time to get in order. Immunizations against Hepatitis A, polio, and typhoid, starting an anti-malarial medication, and for me personally I need to renew my passport which only gets more expensive the faster you need it. Standard price is \$55 for a 6-week turnaround. I'm going with the 2-week \$115 option just to be safe. Plus, the Global Crossroad projects have been already filled well into March and each project either starts at the beginning or middle of the month.

Q: Who will you be working with?

A: We will be staying and working in groups of 10-15 volunteers, who I'm assuming are from America, plus our in-country project leader and the community residents.

Q: Where will you stay?

A: I don't know where our April 1st group will be yet, but the housing for the current project is something like a motel room. There is running water and 220V power, but no hot water. We could stay in a similar place or be housed with local residents.