

About the Trip Leader

Team leader name: Bob & Leslie Bell
Currently lives in: Homer, Alaska
Occupation: retired teachers
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About the Trip

Location: Trishuli, Nepal
Dates: September 16 - 26, 2018
Cost: \$1700
Trip Number: 46022
Expected group size: 22

About the Team Leaders:

As of November 2017, we will have led 50 teams around the world for Habitat for Humanity International's Global Village Department and Fuller Center for Housing's Global Builders (Cambodia, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Malawi, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, South Africa, Siberia, Thailand, Peru, Nepal.....) and hope to add many more to that international list.



Bob & Leslie in tuk tuk in Cambodia, April 2008

In September 2018 we will lead a Fuller Center team back to the same area in Nepal where we were in 2016. Our 10+ domestic teams have been to Florida for hurricane recovery building, as well as to Kauai and Alaska. One of the Sri Lanka teams was a part of the Disaster Response effort after the 2004 tsunami. The housing mission of both Habitat and Fuller is one that we have committed our lives to for the past 20 years.

As Alaskans for over 50 years, we have a deep passion for it and its people.. It's where we built our homes, raised three sons, and taught school. We now use it as a "home base"...."Central Command Post", if you will, to plan all of our excursions around the world with Habitat for Humanity and the Fuller Center, so wherever we happen to be at the time is "home".

Our family defines who we are, and the intense relationship that we have with one another. One adult son, Anders, is a director at a nonprofit, and his wife, Leslie, teaches at a local high school. Our compassionate and caring eight year old granddaughter, Iris Peace, enjoys all there is to do and learn in Alaska, and is a helpful big sister to 18 month old Sonja June.

Lars, our eldest son, volunteers as an EMT and firefighter and works as a computer technician. He and his wife, Heather, are "temporarily" (only 3 years) in Indiana while she finishes up her doctorate. We are waiting patiently for their return to Alaska. Our beloved, beautiful son, Matt, died December 3 of last year, but continues to live in our hearts. We are grateful that we get to look out over the ocean everyday, as it was what he loved the most.

After leaving teaching positions 23 years ago, we were full-time volunteers at HFHI headquarters in the Global Village department for two and half years, and then we were assigned to the Asia/Pacific region for another two and half years as what use to be called "International Partners" (Habitat's version of the Peace Corps). While there, we worked in 14 countries helping the national offices establish their own Global Village program to host and/or send Global Village teams. Having assisted some of these countries host other international teams has given us a unique insight into the "other side of the story" from the perspective of a host when we are leading a team.



Leslie at girls'
Orphanage - Mozambique

Leading Global Village teams for Habitat, and now Global Builders Teams for Fuller, has been an excellent device for sharing our fascinating world with others, while working to eliminate poverty housing.... a vacation with a purpose.

NEPAL 2018:

In recruiting, we look for servant learners who have a great deal of flexibility and patience. We also attempt to have a very diversified team in age, occupations, backgrounds, lifestyles, and faiths. When in our host community, we attempt to arrange visits with schools, medical clinics, orphanages, etc. to gain a more holistic perspective of the community.

During free time, we encourage team members to explore the community as well as the natural environment and tend towards more physical activities such as hiking or kayaking, or observing animals and birds.

The area of Nepal where we will work was the center of the deathly earthquake in April, 2015. Much of Kathmandu was destroyed, and if you've been there before, you will see many historical sites completely gone. The valley where we will be building is about a 3-5 hour drive away from KTM, depending on traffic. This valley suffered severe damage. Even though 3 years later by the time you get there, you will see lots of construction activities to rebuild. Even so, there will still be destroyed buildings visible. What will not show is the lives lost, or the economic and physical factors that have affected the survivors. Many are still

suffering, and thankfully, the Fuller Center for Housing, is hard at work with selecting families willing to partner with them to build a decent sustainable house. The first Fuller houses built were in this area BEFORE the earthquake and were still standing amidst the rubble around them from traditionally built houses. The building methods used for those houses will be what we will use with you. More time consuming, more expensive, but sustainable, earthquake resistant houses. You will be proud of what you came to do, and make new friends at the same time.

Nepal is one of the most fascinating countries we have ever been too. If you journal, bring lots of empty pages; if you are a photographer, bring lots of memory cards and batteries; you will see or learn something new every hour of every day. You can also expect lots of laughter, as they are a happy people, and the kids near the worksites enjoy engaging with the foreigners.

The director of the Nepal chapter and our host, Samuel, has a staff of young committed people who see the impact of the Fuller Center on the everyday lives of local Nepali families. They are eager to help the team in anyway, through translating and working at worksite, side by side with us. Samuel is also the architect of the new approach to building earthquake resistant homes, and has been an inspiration to others in the community to build with similar sustainable methods.

Schedule:

It will take two + days (Sat-Sun) from a US departure to actually arrive at the host site. It is planned that team members will meet for a Welcome Dinner and stay overnight in Kathmandu on Sept 16, and then travel the next day by vehicle to Trishuli, Nepal.

We will work for five days (Tue-Sat); & Sun will be for rest, exploring the community and church. We will then work for 2 more days (Mon-Tue), ending with a celebration and farewell. During our work days, we will also take breaks to meet the people, learn about their daily lives and activities, visit the schools, and learn more about how the Fuller Center for Housing has affected this community in so many ways. We then depart Trishuli on Wed, anticipating two days to return to the US. If possible, we always encourage team members to use this travel opportunity to extend their time in Nepal, or visit other places along the way, either before or after our time in Trishuli. Fuller Center offers an extension of their insurance if you extend your time in Nepal.