



# Alon International

## Introduction

Alon International is a Christian-based organisation situated on a beautiful avocado and semi-organic tropical fruit farm overlooking the picturesque Tzaneen valley in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. It was established nearly 20 years and has grown to accommodate about 150 people including adults and children. It is run along the principles of the "kibbutz" system in Israel and provides a beautiful and safe environment for people who live here.

## Departments and Activities

Alon International is like a small village with many departments and industries. Specifically, the following departments are in operation and activities are undertaken:

- Arts and crafts (canvas and large-scale painting, mosaic tiling, glass work, pots etc.)
- Band (live and recorded music)
- Businesses (administration and professional work)
- Cabaret shows and musical performances
- Carpentry (professional joinery in fully established furniture factory)
- Children's home (orphanage, currently housing about 20 orphans)
- Electrical (regulating power supply to the homes and equipment on the farm)
- Farming (avocados, coffee, macadamia nuts, honey and much more including vegetable gardens)
- Kitchen (meals for people eating at farm, school children etc.)
- Mechanical workshop (motor vehicles and all farm machinery)
- Metal workshop (all types of decorative and practical metalwork)
- Plant nursery (planting and growing of plants, trees and vegetables)
- Restaurants (gourmet cuisine, baking, serving and all related services - to see more visit [www.eatout.co.za](http://www.eatout.co.za) and search for 'Mosaic at Alon Farm')
- School (private Christian school - see Blue Mountain College at [www.bluemc.co.za](http://www.bluemc.co.za))
- Outreaches (into Southern Africa including Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana etc.)

## Life on the Farm

We are a busy community of people, all actively involved in the day-to-day running of the farm and the various departments. Life on the farm is never boring and there is always more than enough to be done. The culture is one of hard work but we also believe that life is much more than just working a routine - socially, people interact freely with one another and many social events (e.g. sports, pizza evenings, movie nights etc) are regularly organised. We regularly receive visitors who come to Alon to spend quality time.

## Who are the People

Various people from all walks of life have settled at Alon farm. A range of nations and cultures are represented here including USA, UK, Germany, Switzerland, France, Denmark, Israel, Ireland, Zimbabwe and South Africa. During a single year many other nationalities may be also be represented as visitors regularly pass through our

# Alon International

doors. Travellers, family, friends, guests and those seeking guidance in their lives come to Alon for varying lengths of time. The population of Alon consists of families, single people, old and young who all contribute to the running of the organisation in some way. About half of our population consists of children from very young ages to school-leaving age and includes orphans and children who board at Alon and attend the private Christian school (Blue Mountain College).

## Accommodation

Dormitory-style accommodation is available for single people although most homes on the farm are able to cater for any overflow of people. Families who come to us are provided with homes where possible.

## Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help in all of the departments mentioned earlier. We encourage volunteers of all ages to apply to us and volunteers are welcome to stay for any period of time whether it be one week, one month, one year or longer. Short-term volunteers are not paid any form of a salary, but in turn, we provide free board and lodging. We furthermore aim to make every volunteer's stay with us a memorable experience and often undertake trips to the Kruger National Park and/or surrounding game reserves and other beautiful locations (e.g. mountain hiking and hot springs) which are all situated within 1 hour from our farm. Long-term volunteers are given a basic salary/pocket money to cover their needs and are often able to generate their own income within the community.

## Contact Information

Enquiries can be directed to Bernard Schoeman at:

Alon International | PO Box 1788, Tzaneen, 0850 | Telephone: +27 (0)15 307 7008

Fax: +27 (0)15 307 7039 | Cell: +27 (0)83 274 6120 | Email: [homebase@alon.org.za](mailto:homebase@alon.org.za)

