

Short -Term Missions and The Kingdom of God



Diocese of Central Florida Missions Committee

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Portions of this teaching manual were put together by SAMS, the South American Mission Society. We are using it with their permission. The Diocesan Missions Committee highly recommends the manual and accompanied literature as an important tool in the formation of a Mission's Ministry.

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Quick Start Guide

This page is intended to direct those who need to find essential mission-formation info. quickly

Raising Funds & Support	Lesson 1 - TRAVEL p. 46
	Raising funds and other support and creating a budget.
Trip Logistics	Lesson 2 - TRAVEL p. 53
	Careful planning for the unique challenges and contingencies of short term mission ministry: travel, room and board, host receiver, coordinator and logistics.
Understanding Poverty & the Poor	Lesson 3 - TEAM p. 58
	How their poverty looks, sounds and feels to the people where you are going, and the challenges of mission and ministry in a different culture and language.
Preparing for Cross-Cultural Ministry	Session 4 - Part A – TRAIN p. 64
	“It’s so different!” Training for when everything looks, sounds and feels different to you—the power of culture shock.
Preparing for Cross-Cultural Ministry	Lesson 5 - Part B - TEAM p. 70
	You need to prepare before going on a short term mission and to prepare to return home.
In-Country Ministry	Lesson 6 - TRAIN p. 74
	You can’t run to Home Depot or Walmart, life-giving daily short term mission routines, the people are always more important than the project and some really important do’s and don’t—ever.
Re-Entry and Follow-Through	Lesson 7 - TEAM p. 82
	“How was it?” Things will be different when you go home, and you really finish the short term mission when you get back to your local parish.



Welcome to the Short Term Missions (STM) Manual.

There are three words that every short term mission's team needs to become intimate with:

Travel

Team

Train

These words are somewhat intuitive, however for clarity's sake, let's work through what each means:

- **Travel:** These are elements of the trip that involve travel. There are so many details that need to be worked through prior to travel that a full third of your experiences will be devoted to these
- **Team:** Because you're traveling as a team, you need to think through and work out team dynamics. These sections are devoted to helping your team come together, grow together and encounter Christ together
- **Train:** A crucial part of this trip is training. In fact, without training, the trip will be a failure. Take these sections seriously and make sure to work through the material presented.

As you can see there are seven (7) sessions therefore your team will need to meet at least seven times - six prior to your trip and once after. **DO NOT SHORTEN THE TRAINING!** Every session is essential and will provide the maximum experience for you and the team.

If you have any questions or would like help feel free to contact any of the collaborators of this manual. We are here to help you any way we can.

In His Service.

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How to Recruit and Build a Missions Team:

Building a team of people to go on a missions trip, particularly if they've never been before, can be very challenging. Here are a few tips to remember when you're beginning to put it all together.

1. **Be committed yourself** – the first step in getting any trip off on the right foot when it comes to recruiting is for you as the Rector to be committed to the idea. If you are only going on this trip because the diocese has mandated it or as a kind of “Christian Tourist”, it will come through loud and clear in your words, demeanor and attitude. Authenticity is critical when you being missions because everyone's wondering, “Does she really want to be here? Does he *really* care about this trip?” The good news is, if you're committed, that's also apparent and those you are speaking step up to your level of commitment.
2. **Anticipate objections** – there are many reasons people don't want to go on missions trips. Here are few of the most common:
 - a. *“It costs too much and I can't afford it.”* This is probably the most common objection and often the most honest. Mission trips can be expensive (though we've given you several options of inexpensive ones in this manual) and because they can cost hundreds and even thousands of dollars, this can be a significant barrier to people going. The solution: affirm that the cost is high but immediately follow that with a word about our God who not only owns the cattle on a thousand hills, but also the hills! (Psalm 50:10) God will provide for what is needed. Also let them know that the team will be fundraising and those funds will help defer the costs. Finally tell them that they will need to sacrifice to go on this trip. Sacrifice is an important biblical principal and another value lesson that missions trip can teach.
 - b. *“It's not safe there.”* The quick answer here is: “Yes. You're right.” Because that's the truth. However, in reality, there is nothing 100% safe in life. Just driving on the interstate is very dangerous. The truth here is that they're saying they don't want to put themselves in harm's way, to which we say, “amen! I've got a strict ‘bring ‘em back alive policy’.” But nothing is really safe in this world – no matter how many precautions you take.
 - c. *“I've got health problems.”* This may or may not be true, so pastoral sensitivity and discernment is important here. What is more often being communicated here is “I don't want to go” rather than genuine health concerns. However, when he/she hears how great the trip went, they will want to go on the next one.
 - d. *“I'm too old/too young to go on a missions trip.”* Whether they are too old or too young isn't really the issue. What's really being said is “I'm not interested in being discipled” and that should concern any pastor. As you are able, dig a bit deeper with the individual and find out why they think they aren't a good candidate. More than likely, there is a hidden insecurity or previous bad experience that his holding this person back.

3. **Personally invite** – if you really want to make the most out of this trip, you **must** personally invite parishioners to come with you. Just making an announcement in church about an upcoming trip will excite some, but perhaps not the ones you want to come along. Mission trips are some of the best places for leadership development, so you want to make sure you have the ones you're cultivating for leadership there with you. (Additionally people have a much more difficult time turning you down when they've been personally invited by the Rector.)
4. **Ask repeatedly** – many times people's initial response is: "Me!?! Go to _____!?! Are you crazy???" No way." And that ends the first stage of the conversation. However, as they go home and think about your invitation, the Holy Spirit begins to do a work in them. He begins to stir their heart and they will begin to feel the tug of God from another country or region. So, you must ask repeatedly. The next time you see them, ask, "Have you thought any more about my invitation?" And if they pause, even for a second, then you know God is calling them go with you. They may say "no" a second time, but God is still charge, so you can be confident that He'll follow up where you can't. Some of the people I've witness most engage missions are the same ones who ran from it the hardest. So, don't give up.

If you follow these tips, you are guaranteed to have a successful and spiritually fruitful trip. Good luck!

How to Find a Mission Coordinator: The Rector's Role

As with all things in the church, the Rector's role has to be one of support and vision casting for missions. After this you and your church will be best served by finding someone who will be your Mission's Champion: a person who is ready to get their feet wet for the Gospel.

- 1.** This person should have a passion for getting outside the doors of the church and into the community, nation, and world. You may notice that this person has a particular passion or burden for a cause, a people group, or a function. This will be helpful later on in deciding where, what, and when a mission will occur.

- 2.** Finding the right person does not have to be seemingly impossible. Look for the person who has a story to tell. Many times our greatest places of ministry stem out of God's healing, presence, and provision in our own lives. Listen to your people; someone is bound to have an experience they long to share or recreate for others. Let them run with your guidance. This can present a wonderful opportunity to step outside the church doors and into your local community. From here stepping into other national or international mission experiences becomes much easier for the congregation to imagine and anticipate.

- 3.** Always keep in mind that discipleship is a key goal in establishing a successful mission experience. Therefore, part of your task as rector will be to disciple your Mission's Champion. This can often produce the most personal benefit as you will be encouraged by watching him/her come alive in their faith and begin giving their faith away.
 - Therefore, this person should have a teachable spirit and a servant's heart.
 - Do your best not to default this task to a warm body. Make sure a passion for mission lives in their heart. This is the hardest step along the way and often requires much prayer and patience.
 - Once you find the person, give him/her room to succeed and room to fail by always being there to cheer them on. (After all, some of the best lessons in life come not from our successes but from our failures).
 - Remember mission is more of an art than it is a science. The final experience may be very different than you first imagined but you, your church, and most especially your Mission's Champion will be transformed by it.

GLOSSARY OF SHORT-TERM MISSIONS (STM) TERMS

Short-term missions	The outreach of sending small groups of individuals to minister to others either domestically or internationally.
STM process	The entire time period that includes pre-field, on-field and post-field. Each step is equally important in realizing the maximum long-term impact of STM.
STM participants	Those engaged in the STM process, including those who send (the senders), those who go (the goers), and those who receive them (the receiver hosts).
Senders	Those who send people to go on STM trips. These are most commonly local churches.
Goers	Those who go on a STM trip. These are most commonly teams, but they also include individuals, couples, or families.
Receiver host	Typically a missionary located in the receiving host country who serves as the site coordinator for the STM team. Receivers can also be a mission or local indigenous church.
Facilitator	An individual who equips individuals to serve as team leaders or who equips a STM team for cross-cultural ministry.
Team leader	The individual(s) responsible for the team throughout the short-term mission. Leaders serve as the liaison between the team and the senders and the receiver hosts. Most STM teams will have more than one leader, although a single individual is typically identified as primary. The team leader plays the critical role in equipping the team to both go and return prepared.
Team member	A participant on the STM team. Once on the field, the team member is under the authority of the team leader(s).
Supporter	Person who is an extension of the STM team. These individuals, mostly from the sending church, enable the team to go by providing support with prayer, finances, logistics, communication, or in some other form of assistance.
Receiving community	Citizens of the host country who are the target recipients of the STM trip.
Re-Entry	The process of returning and re-adjusting to one's home culture following a cross-cultural experience.
De-briefing	The act of sharing about, reflecting on, and discussing a STM trip and the associated cross-cultural experience. These should be conducted on-field during the experience and post-field.

Introduction to Manual

Purpose

This manual contains lessons to equip individuals to serve as effective Short-Term Missions (STM) team leaders and/or to go on STM trips and minister cross-culturally. It is intended for use by those persons or organizations who desire to see positive long-term impacts on all STM participants—those who send, those who go, and those who receive them. This training module also seeks to equip those who go in such a way that will minimize the danger of doing harm, especially to the poor.

The overarching goal in preparing such a manual is to see the Kingdom of God expanded, i.e. the Kingdom declared and people brought to Christ and disciplined. This, we believe, is the calling of the Church. As STM participants are well equipped for the challenges of cross-cultural ministry, the hope is that the Holy Spirit will work to see the transformation of lives, communities, and ministries for the glory of God. Material in this manual, therefore, can also be used to raise missions awareness in the local church.

Although these lessons can be used in a wide variety of settings, they were written primarily to address the training needs and learning styles of those individuals who comprise a STM team. However, the facilitator can use these lessons with a wide array of people who participate in the overall STM process.

This training module rests on Scriptural principles that guide the Church in her mission and outreach. Users of this training material will need to **adapt** and **contextualize** it to make it appropriate for their target audience.

Although it is preferable if the person facilitating these lessons has STM experience, such is not a prerequisite for success. The facilitator should see him or herself as leading a learning process in which participants can make major contributions to the learning of the entire group. The facilitator should be more of a coach than a lecturer or teacher. A humble servant with the gift of communication is well-positioned to be an effective facilitator.

The facilitator's training objectives are to:

- Describe the various participants in STM
- Describe the STM process
- Form and build STM teams
- Provide tools and information that equips teams to engage in cross-cultural ministry
- Provide information on available resources

Overall Goal of the Training:

Maximize the likelihood of a long-term positive impact on all STM participants

Structure of the manual

This manual is divided into three parts. Part I provides foundational information that the team leader needs to know. The sections in Part I are called Sessions. Part II includes those learning components that the team leader(s) can use to equip STM teams for ministry. These sections are called Lessons. Part III contains seven lesson plans to help the team leaders prepare their team.

Notes to the Facilitator

The facilitator using this manual should feel free to adapt the training materials to his or her audience. It is extremely helpful if the facilitator is familiar with the abilities, issues, and interests of those being trained because no centrally created material can fully account for the variations of learning styles, educational levels, and ages of your target group.

The facilitator must be especially sensitive to the length of the lessons. While the material can be used in a day-long workshop, for example, the material is best suited for use over a series of months, especially in order to prepare teams well. For some audiences, these sessions will be too long, and the facilitator should break them into smaller pieces. It is far better to communicate too few concepts clearly than too many concepts poorly. Make sure that the audience is not overwhelmed with more information than they can truly process and apply. If experience indicates that shorter lessons are necessary, the facilitator can easily spread one lesson out over two or three meetings. Make sure to start each meeting with a review of the previous lesson to promote continuity.

The total set of sessions is designed to equip both leaders of STM teams and the teams themselves. Thus, it is likely that in equipping a team, for example, not all sessions will or should be used. The facilitator must determine which material is necessary and/or most appropriate for a given context. The training process will be even different if the facilitator is equipping team leaders as opposed to an actual STM team.

The facilitator engaged in equipping a STM team also has the option of using the accompanying lesson plans (see resource CD) that have been prepared for ease in presenting the material included in Lessons 1-7. These lesson plans can be taken “off the shelf” and effectively used in small group training.

Some key adult education principles to be aware of include:

- *Respect*: Individuals have much valuable knowledge, insight, and experience. Show respect for this by asking for their understanding of an issue instead of always telling them information. As a facilitator, learn to ask good questions!
- *Safety*: Individuals need to know that the learning environment will be safe physically and socially. Social safety includes creating a learning environment where the learners aren't afraid to speak because they or others might lose face or feel shame.
- *Relevancy and Immediacy*: Individuals need to learn information that they can put into practice in their lives and do it soon.
- *Hearing/Seeing/Doing*: People remember about 10% of what they hear, 20% of what they hear and see, and 80% of what they do. Training needs to focus on putting information into action.

This table identifies the fourteen sessions of Part I and II and the purpose of each one.

Session	Purpose
Part I – Equipping Team Leaders	
Session I. The role of the STM team leader	To describe the challenges and responsibilities of a STM team leader.
Session II. Introduction to STM	To describe the current landscape of STM and the importance of training
Session III. Foundation for maximum impact STM trips	To lay a Biblical foundation for STM that will bless all participants.
Session IV. The birth of a STM idea	To present an approach for developing a vision for STM trips.
Session V. Engaging senders and receivers in the STM process	To outline the importance of engaging both senders and receivers early in the STM planning process and the importance of developing strategic long-term partnerships.
Session VI. Forming a STM team	To describe what is involved in forming a STM team.
Session VII. Building a STM team	To outline the process of building a STM team for maximum long-term impact.
Part II – Equipping STM Teams	
Lesson 1. Raising funds and support	To describe the process of raising funds and other support for a successful STM trip.
Lesson 2. Trip logistics	To describe the scope of logistical issues that must be carefully planned for a successful STM trip.
Lesson 3. Understanding poverty and the poor	To present an understanding of poverty and its implications for STM cross-cultural ministry.
Lesson 4. Preparing for Cross-Cultural Ministry (part A)	To provide the tools and information needed for effective cross-cultural ministry.
Lesson 5. Preparing for Cross-Cultural Ministry (part B)	To provide the tools and information needed for effective cross-cultural ministry.
Lesson 6. In-country ministry	To describe the scope of in-country travel and ministry issues that need to be anticipated in order to maximize the overall impact of the STM trip.
Lesson 7. Re-entry and follow-through	To describe the importance of returning home prepared.



PART ONE
Equipping STM
Team Leaders

Session I The Role of STM Team Leader

Facilitator notes:

Session purpose: To describe the challenges and responsibilities of a STM team leader.

Key ideas:

- The team leader plays a key role in equipping all STM participants throughout the entire STM process
- The key qualities of a team leader are a love for Christ and a love for others
- The capabilities of the team leader directly determine the degree of STM impact

The purpose of this session is to scope out the role and responsibilities of STM leaders. The degree of excellence in the capabilities of an individual to serve as team leader directly determines the degree of STM impact on all participants. With God's help, the task is feasible and a high calling.

Goal of the STM leader:

To form and equip a team with a shared vision for cross-cultural ministry in a way that maximizes the impact on all participants.

While the missions committee, youth committee or vestry prays about sending a team, they should also pray about who is going to lead the team. The role of the team leader is very important to the success of the team in achieving maximum long-term impact on all participants. The team leader(s) should be identified before the STM trip is announced to the entire church. The leader will play a key role in determining the make-up of the team (to be discussed in Session VI).

Question & Dialogue

*What qualities do you think are the most important for a leader of a STM team?
[Encourage dialogue and probe responses with follow-up questions.] – 5 minutes*

The role of the leader, then, is to facilitate the formation of a vision for ministry for the STM team and provide the necessary training for all participants that will result in effective cross-cultural ministry and maximum STM impact. The leadership role is important in all phases of the STM process—pre-field, on-field, and post-field.

Team leader characteristics

What are the key leadership qualities of a team leader? The most important are:

- ***Spiritual maturity.*** A committed relationship with Jesus is essential if one is to lead others on a Christian mission. Prayer and Bible study will be essential components of the mission. The team leader must have discernment and wisdom in ministering cross-culturally.

- **Good character.** The team leader must be a person of high integrity whom others can respect. Willingness by team members to submit to the authority of the team leader is essential. This person is considered trustworthy of confidence.
- **Adaptability.** The team leader must have the attitude of a learner. Learning takes place for everyone throughout the mission. The team leader must model this quality. He or she must be able to adapt to changing circumstances while keeping their composure.
- **Good communication and interpersonal skills.** The team leader must have the ability to communicate effectively and teach in a way that empowers team participants, builds bridges with the sending church, and that clearly lays out plans and expectations with the receiver hosts.
- **Leadership and decision-making qualities.** Such qualities will enable the leader to lead effectively, including the willingness to make decisions, especially in crisis situations, and to delegate responsibilities to team members. The leader should be sufficiently self-confident as not to be threatened by team members who use their giftedness for the benefit of the overall team. The leader should have the ability to see the big picture in a given situation and move ahead in God's timing. He or she motivates by example and personal character rather than by coercion and encourages responsibility of team members.
- **Heart for missions.** Team leaders must demonstrate an enthusiasm for evangelism and outreach in order to extend the Kingdom of God. Such a leader is committed to building God's kingdom and not his/her own and has compassion for the poor. Furthermore, the leader must have the necessary time to dedicate to the task of leadership throughout the entire STM process.
- **Servant heart.** Leading is serving. The team leader must be willing to serve others on the team. The team leader must be able to work under the authority of the sending church and the receiver host with a compassionate and discerning spirit. A servant leader seeks to develop others rather than exalt himself/herself, treasures relationships over task goals, and is alert and aware of the needs of team participants and the nationals.



In addition to the key leadership qualities mentioned above, it would be advantageous if the team leader:

- Had prior STM and cross-cultural experience
- Can speak the language of the country of destination
- Had small group leadership experience
- Had experience as a trainer
- Had experience in the planned activity of any project that may be undertaken in the field

Team Leader Roles & Responsibilities

The team leader has a host of responsibilities that impinge on all participants in STM—those who send, those who go, and those who receive. With respect to all participants, the leader has a key role in developing a mutually-shared vision and planning and coordinating the overall trip, and planning the implementation of thorough follow-through and reporting back.

With respect to those who send, the leader has roles in raising missions awareness in the local parish, mobilizing resources necessary to support the trip and, through it all, establishing bridges that can be used in follow-through to ensure maximum long-term impacts.

With respect to those who go, the leader has responsibilities for:

- Leading the team through the entire STM process—pre-field, on-field, and post-field
- Forming and building a team
- Facilitating the identification of roles of team members
- Handling administrative details—budget, financial matters, logistics planning
- Preparing the team with needed training
- Planning and conducting all pre-field, on-field, and post-field meetings. Especially important are the on-field and post-field de-briefings.

With respect to those who receive the STM team, the leader's responsibilities include coordinating in the design stage, identifying needs and opportunities for ministry, and seeking to discern how best to serve the missionary/host mission.

Typical teams will require an assistant or co-leader. The number of leaders actually necessary will depend on the size of the team, the ages of those who go, the nature and complexity of the mission, and the situational context. It is generally wise if the co-leader or assistant leader is of the opposite gender of the team leader.

Key Principle

The abilities of the team leader(s) directly determine the degree of STM impact.

A check-list that identifies many of the major responsibilities of the team leader is included in the resource CD.

Facilitator note:

Review the key ideas for the session and close the session with prayer, if appropriate, thanking God for his faithfulness and asking that he would raise up STM leaders who can effectively lead teams in cross-cultural ministry. Pray that God would give these leaders great wisdom and discernment throughout the STM process.

Session II

Introduction to STM

Facilitator notes:

Session purpose: To describe the current landscape of STM and the importance of training.

Key ideas:

- STM is a significant phenomenon today.
- Training & preparation is the necessary foundation for a successful STM trip.
- STM is not an isolated event in time but a process over time that includes pre-field, on-field, and post-field phases
- The participants in STM include those who send, those who go, and those who receive

“We may be entering a new era when missionary work will not be left to professional missionaries, but will be the common task of the rank and file of church members in the course of their daily occupations.”¹

Such is the emerging view of some observers of the phenomenon of Short-Term Missions (STM). But is it valid?

What explains the increasing popularity of STM? One of the results of globalization is the increased ease in navigating the globe. It is relatively easy to communicate and connect with peoples across the globe. The call to God’s people to care about the poor and those suffering has, no doubt, contributed to increased global outreach. Those with financial and other resources sense a responsibility to help the less fortunate poor. Furthermore, increased emphasis is being placed on the church’s involvement in God’s work of redemption and reconciliation.

Global Context for STM

What is the global context for STM today? Following are some telling statistics:

- Most people live in the majority world
- Half of the people in the world are children
- 1 of 4 children has to work instead of going to school
- About 2.5 billion people live on less than \$2/day
- About 30,000 people die daily from preventable diseases
- Only 8% of the people in the world own a car

Given this global context, we must also understand the changing face of global Christianity. As Phillip Jenkins has clearly shown, the Center of Christendom has shifted from the West (Europe and North America) to the global south.² Thus, the majority of Christians live in what is now called “The Majority World.”³ Christianity is the fastest growing religion in the world at an

¹ Missiologist Herb Kane, cited in Roger Peterson et al. *Maximum Impact Short-Term Mission*, Minneapolis: STEMPress, p. 28.

² See Phillip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2002. Data that support his conclusions are available from the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at www.globalchristianity.org.

³ Adoption of the term “Majority World” was agreed upon at a Lausanne meeting in 2006. It replaces earlier terms such as developing world, 2/3 world, etc.

approximate rate of 7% per annum. Furthermore, many Christians in the Majority World suffer great persecution.

Christianity in the majority world is practiced somewhat differently than that in the West because of historical context and cultural differences. For example, believers in the majority world are typically more communal than individualistic in the way they live and express their beliefs. These believers are typically more attune to the notion of “principalities & powers” and the way these impact spiritual reality. Related to this is their understanding of the reality of miracles and the role and power of prayer. This is the context in which STM is reaching out to bridge cultural divides with the hope and love of Christ.

State of STM Today

Small Group Activity

*Question to be addressed: What would a successful STM trip look like?
Afterwards, a spokesperson should report the group’s discoveries. – 10 minutes*

The STM literature lends insight into how some people view and characterize the value of STM trips. Some examples include:

- “A way for God to use ordinary people to show his extraordinary love”
- “If you want to see God in action, go on a STM trip”
- “Hands-on mission”
- “God’s workshop”
- “One of the greatest classrooms in the world to know God”
- “The #1 way to impact a person’s life is to send them on a short-term mission trip”
- “The gateway to career missionary service”

However, others who are somewhat more skeptical have characterized STM as “the amateurization of missions,” “drive-by missions,” and the like.

The STM “industry” has grown tremendously in recent decades. It is likely approaching a \$1 billion activity annually. STM involve both domestic and international activities. Interest in STM expanded exponentially in the U.S. after the devastating hurricanes of recent years. One estimate that has grabbed the attention of many is that the U.S. church invests more in STM than in long-term missions.

An examination of the STM literature shows that most assessments of impacts have focused on those who go. And even then, it is only the short-term impacts that have generally been considered. It seems clear that much less is known about the long-term impacts on the receiving communities as well as on those who send. It is hoped that more rigorous training can provide the foundation for such considerations.

STM evolved in the late 20th Century from missionary recruitment into an opportunity for spiritual growth in the lives of those who go on STM trips. The scene of STM seems to be evolving from a focus on youth to one that engages more adults. The advantage here is that adults typically have more time and resources—finances, skills, and experience—and can be more focused in their ministry.

“Short-Term Missions is a huge phenomenon. It has great potential. But STM does not appear to be realizing this potential...But when the immersion experience is connected with the right sorts of orientation and coaching, significant change is possible.”⁴

This quote suggests that STM as we know it today is missing the mark. STM trips seemingly are not realizing the kinds of impacts they could have. However, it also suggests that proper training can enhance the overall STM experience for all participants.

Why is proper training so important?

- The task (project) may not work out
- The logistics may go wrong
- But the training can prepare a team for such contingencies

Key Principle
Training and preparation is the foundation for a successful STM trip.

The goal of the training outlined here is twofold:

1. To **maximize** the likelihood of positive long-term impacts
2. To **minimize** the likelihood of negative impact or harm

Adequate training for STM rests on a sufficient understanding of the overall process and the universe of participants. Much attention has been given in recent years to identifying these dimensions more precisely.⁵

Key Principle
Short-term missions is not an isolated event in time but a process over time that includes senders, goers, and receivers.

Interest in maximizing the long-term impacts of STM demands that attention be given to the full process that:

1. begins **pre-field** with planning and design and team-building and preparation
2. continues **on-field** with ministry and learning, and
3. continues **post-field** with de-briefings and re-entry and follow-through

This training module considers each of these stages and their importance in preparation and training in order to maximize long-term impacts. It also gives substantial attention to each category of STM participants. The universe of participants includes:

- Those who send—the senders
- Those who go—the goers
- Those who receive—the receiver hosts

⁴ Robert J. Priest et al, “Researching the Short-Term Mission Movement,” *Missiology*, Vol. XXXIV, no.4, October 2006, pp. 444-445.

⁵ Of particular note is Roger Peterson et al, *Maximum Impact Short-Term Mission*, Minneapolis: STEMPress, 2003.

Giving sufficient attention in the training process to the preparations required at each stage for all participants will help ensure building a sufficient foundation for maximum long-term impacts.

Facilitator note:

Review the key ideas for the session and close the session with prayer, if appropriate, thanking God for his many blessings and how STM is seeking to unite the Church across cultures. Pray that God will bless STM efforts such that the Kingdom of God will be faithfully declared and built-up. Pray for wisdom in order to undertake STM in a way that maximizes the long-term positive impacts while minimizing harm. Pray that God will give our churches a heart for STM ministry.

Session III Foundation for Maximum Impact STM Trips

Facilitator notes:

Session purpose: To lay a Biblical foundation for STM that will bless all participants.

Key ideas:

- There are many proponents as well as critics of STM.
- STM is more than about me.
- STM can be a part of *missio Dei*.
- There is a solid Biblical rationale for STM.
- The 3 key elements to maximize the long-term impacts of STM are prayer, planning, and preparation.
- We need a long-term view of STM.

What makes a cross-cultural trip a STM trip? Clearly not all cross-cultural trips can and should be characterized under the banner of “missions.” The following table shows a comparison of a STM trip and a cross-cultural trip.

Small Group Activity

How is a STM trip more than a cross-cultural experience?

Afterwards, a spokesperson should report the group’s discoveries. – 10 minutes

Comparison of STM and Cross-Cultural Trips

STM Trip	Cross-Cultural Trip
Other focused	Me focused
Minister to others	Experience another culture
Ministry—to be a blessing	Vacation—be blessed
To discern	To experience
Self-transformation	Self-transformation
Transform others	Experience others

The above does not denigrate the transforming value of many cross-cultural trips. But we must be careful not to characterize all such trips as “mission trips.” For as Jim Reapsome stated: “If everything is missionary work, then nothing is missionary work.”⁶ The cross-cultural trip is generally focused on “me” while the STM trip focuses on building the Kingdom of God.

Key Principle

Participating on a STM trip is more than about ME.

In general, a STM trip has the following characteristics:

- Swift—relatively easy to do and quickly
- Temporary—engagement by all Christians.

⁶ *Mission Maker Magazine* 2005.

- Flexible—can adapt easily to changing needs or opportunities
- Non-professional—does not take a lot of training and preparation
- Repetitive—ongoing and constant flow of people and resources
- Expensive
- Part of God’s purposes in redemption and reconciliation

STM trips are relatively easy to undertake, at least in comparison with that of long-term missionary service. They are for a relatively short timeframe. STM trips are generally 1-2 weeks in duration. STM trips are flexible in that dates for travel can adapt relatively easily to needs and opportunities. Virtually anyone can participate on a STM trip. Because STM trips are generally expensive to undertake, sending churches increasingly need to understand how STM can and should be a strategic component of God’s mission.

Pro’s & Con’s of STM

STM has both its proponents and detractors. It is instructive to examine all sides of the issue to ascertain if and how proper training can address the critics.

Proponents argue that STM can:

- Energize the local church, leading to more giving for missions and outreach
- Nurture the spiritual formation of those who go—gift discovery, discipleship
- Engage people heretofore not involved
- Enhance and refine one’s perspective and worldview
- Build the Kingdom of God, bridging peoples and cultures
- Bring people to Christ or plant seeds to be harvested later
- Lead individuals into missionary service
- Lead to financial support for indigenous missions and churches
- Bless host missionaries and their ministries—develop new and nurture existing relationships
- Lead to long-term strategic partnerships with host missions and churches

“The STM movement represents an incredible opportunity to mobilize resources on behalf of strategic needs around the world and to build strategic links between resource-rich churches and individuals...and fellow believers or sister churches in those parts of the world characterized by incredible hardship, suffering, and resource limitations.”⁷

Question & Dialogue
If STM in fact increases interest in career missionary service, why haven’t we seen commensurate growth in the number of career missionaries? [Promote dialogue by inviting specific individuals to share their ideas and probe responses.] – 10 minutes

⁷ Robert Priest et al in *Missiology* Oct 06, pp. 440-441

Following is a case study that demonstrates the impacts on the lives of those who participated on a particular STM trip to Bolivia. The local parish that sent the team was the sending church of the missionary couple that served as the receiver hosts in the field.

***Impact Case Study:
STM Team of 14 participants went to Bolivia***

- 1 became a missionary
- 1 became chair of the missions board of the local parish
- 2 set up an NGO to work with an indigenous Bolivian mission
- 2 became members of the task force for Bolivia
- 1 went to seminary with an interest in serving as a long-term missionary
- 1 (the Rector) became even more vocal as the parish cheerleader for missions
- 1 wants to go on another STM trip
- 1 is interested in studying social work to help the poor
- A second team has subsequently returned in order to foster a long-term partnership with the indigenous mission

Yet, not all are enamored with what they see happening in STM. Following is a compilation of some criticisms from individuals who represent views from both the mission field and home:

- STM trips amount to little more than cross-cultural vacations—religious tourism, short-term junkies.
- Many STM trips are a waste of money.
- Participants on STM trips are often overly goal focused.
- Short-term missionaries often do harm to people, especially the poor.
- STM projects can disrupt local economies, either by infusing money unwisely or by undertaking projects that could have provided employment and income for nationals.
- There is the constant danger of goers who take paternalistic attitudes with them.
- Short-term missionaries often take cultural imperialist assumptions with them.
- STM projects can create an unhealthy dependency.
- Many who go have insufficient cross-cultural training and respect for the nationals in their host country.
- Some who design STM trips are overly confident in the transferability of ministry models from the U.S. context to the majority world.
- Language barriers limit the effectiveness of teams.
- Many STM efforts focus on short-term fixes that actually may leave the receiving community in a worse condition than before.
- There is likely little lasting impact on all STM participants.
- STM trips are but expensive efforts to assuage feelings of guilt about wealth and to satisfy curiosities.
- STM groups tend to distract the full-time missionary/receiver host.

These criticisms must be taken seriously. However, proper training and preparation can equip those who go in such a way as to maximize the long-term positive impacts while minimizing the possibility of doing harm.

There is no doubt, however, that receiving communities resent STM teams when they perceive their presence or behavior as nothing more than “Christian tourism,” “cultural voyeurism,” or what is known as the “commoditization of the poor.” In the latter case, the concern is about viewing the poor as objects, e.g. to be photographed or videoed or made into a poster for some purpose. The individual in this sense is not seen as a person but as a nameless representative of “poverty.” In other words, the poor are being “used” for ulterior motives. This can be an

offence to those already lacking in self-respect and low self-esteem. [Note: Lesson 3 will deal in more detail with issues surrounding ministry to the poor.]

The facilitator engaged in STM must be prepared to address the above concerns. The most common objections to STM and possible responses are as follows:

Common Objection	Possible Response
#1. Career missionaries can do it better	Clearly, career missionaries can do many things better. STM teams can augment the ministry of the on-site missionary, bringing certain skills and undertaking projects that would otherwise not be done. Also, STM trips are more than about “doing.”
#2. STM are a waste of money	Granted, STM trips can be very expensive ventures. Without proper training and preparation, we must agree that STM trips could be a waste of money. But we must look at STM trips in their totality and seek to maximize the long-term positive impacts on all participants.
#3. It is more cost-effective to send money	We must agree that oftentimes it may be more cost-effective to send money, especially where teams are not well equipped for the on-field ministry. At the same time, it is unlikely that money that would otherwise go to STM trips would in fact be sent to the field.
#4. Why travel that far when there are so many needs right here at home	The Scriptures clearly mandate that Christ’s disciples are to go to “Jerusalem, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” It is not an either/or choice.

The above suggests that most of these common objections to STM can be addressed with proper training and preparation. This is not to say, however, that these objections are not without merit. See, for example, the following case study about the cost-effective use of money in STM.

Case Study: Hurricane Mitch⁸
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A study was conducted of the impact of STM construction teams on local communities in Honduras impacted by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. ▪ Investigators examined the impact on communities of teams that built homes as compared to those communities where homes were built by Hondurans ▪ The study found no lasting impact of STM, positive or negative, on Honduran families or communities ▪ In fact, the survey showed that Hondurans would rather have had the money raised by the STM team channeled toward building homes and employing Hondurans.

At the same time, the case study produced some insights into what factors contributed to lasting STM impacts. The most important contributors identified were:

⁸ Kurt Alan Ver Beek, “The impact of short-term missions: a case study of house construction in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch,” *Missiology: An International Review*, Vol. XXXIV, no. 4, October 2006, pp. 477- 495.

1. the amount of pre-trip preparation
2. the amount of learning the participants experienced during the trip
3. whether goers and receivers stayed in touch following the trip

Motivation for STM

A key determinant of the success of any STM trip is: Why go? The motivation for going directly determines the degree of long-term impact. However, not all individuals who may benefit from participating on a STM trip are inclined to go. Reasons for not going include the following:

- Fear of the unknown, risks
- I am too busy
- Who wants to leave their comfort zone?
- God has not called me to go
- I am not particularly gifted to help people
- I am not missionary material
- I do not know the language
- I am not a real together person
- I am not all that healthy

Many of these reasons are legitimate. But the motivation for going must rest on the calling of each believer.

Biblical Rationale for STM

Small Group Activity

What is the Biblical rationale for engaging in STM?

Afterwards, a spokesperson should report the group's discoveries. – 15 minutes

As John Stott has explained, the fundamental reason for going is obedience to Christ: *“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”* (John 20:21b)

The most common Scriptural text used as the basis for missions is commonly referred to as “The Great Commission” in Matthew 28:19-20:

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

This is a very profound statement by the risen Lord, i.e. to make disciples of all nations as you go. This leaves little room for ignoring the nations as we are often want to do when resources get tight, internal church issues consume our energies, or when we lose our passion for the lost. Particularly striking is not only that we are instructed to go in Christ's authority, but that He will be with us as we do go.

Another rationale for going rests on our love for God and, thus, the desire to be obedient, and our love for the lost. We are reminded of these twin affections in “The Great Commandment” found in Mark 12:28-31:

"Of all the commandments...the most important is love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength... and love your neighbor as yourself."

These two embedded commands of the will of God are inseparable, continuing a thread from the Pentateuch as found in Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. Loving God with a whole-hearted response will inevitably result in loving others. This is an unconditional command that calls for action. Jesus' radical teaching on “Who is my neighbor?” is found in Luke 10:25-37. His teaching removes any restrictions on “neighbor” and calls his people to go alongside the desperate and the needy, whoever and wherever they might be. Acts 1:8 complements the Great Commission by promising the presence and power of the Holy Spirit as God's people go to the ends of the earth with Christ's love:

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

From the above, we understand that we go because:

1. God commands us to go
2. We love others because of our love for God
3. God promises his presence and power as we go

The above rests on the fact that God has a missions heart and mindset. He has compassion for all the nations and peoples of the earth. This thread can be traced throughout Scriptures. It is seen in Genesis 18:18 where God promises that Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and that all nations on the earth will be blessed through him. It continues, for example, in the Psalms (22:27) where “all the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him.”

We can think of the prophet Jonah as undertaking one of the most incredible short-term missions trips ever. It lasted for perhaps only 2 days of actual ministry. Recall that God called Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach repentance. It was essentially a STM trip with the purpose of evangelism and preaching to an unreached people group. The result was that God blessed the outreach, the people repented, and God withheld judgment.

The New Testament provides many examples of STM trips as well. See those, for example, by the Apostles Paul and Peter, Barnabas with Paul and John Mark, Titus going to Corinth, Macedonia, and Jerusalem, and Apollos in Ephesus, Corinth, and Crete. We see Jesus sending out the Twelve in Luke 9:1-10. All of these “going's” illustrate the nature of the missions outreach.

Biblical Missions	
Who?	Every believer is a missionary
What?	Proclaiming the gospel (salvific love of Christ) in word and deed and making disciples
Where?	To the ends of the earth
When?	Now
Why?	Obedience, love, God's promises
How?	The "normal Christian life" and long-term and short-term missionaries

Christian mission then involves being sent away from a place (home), crossing cultural boundaries, and taking the love of Christ in word and deed. All of this is simply being an ambassador for Christ in his work of reconciliation:

*"All this is from God, who **reconciled** us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**: that God was **reconciling** the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of **reconciliation**. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: **Be reconciled to God.**" (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)*

Christ wills every believer to have what might be called a "missions mindset." Such a worldview knows that Jesus is The Way. It understands that missions is the responsibility of every Christian. An individual with a missions mindset knows that God calls his people to move out. They know that God uses his children, in spite of all their frailties, to change the world, to bring reconciliation. Such people also understand that missions is about servanthood.

Jesus, then, is our model for holistic (word and deed) missions:

- He proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God
- He taught the Word of God
- He healed the sick – touched the outcast
- He fed the hungry
- He delivered people from demon possession
- He loved sinners

Question & Dialogue
 Question: Can we call a STM trip Christian if the name of Jesus is not involved?
 [Ask specific people what they think and probe with follow-up questions.] – 10 minutes

A solid foundation for maximum impact STM rests on a comprehensive understanding of all possible participants. See the following table:

STM Participants	
Those who send	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lord Jesus Christ • Local churches & Dioceses • Individuals • Schools • Mission organizations • Professional organizations
Those who go	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams • Families • Individuals
Those who receive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missionaries • Indigenous churches/missions • Professionals

Planning to Maximize Impact

Planning to maximize the long-term positive impact of STM requires three key elements. These so-called here as the 3 **P**'s are:

- **Prayer**
- **Planning**
- **Preparation**

None of these elements can be ignored. There are no short cuts for a successful STM experience.

Prayer is the foundation for success, for STM is ultimately God's work. Prayer demonstrates that it is his work, that those involved are putting their trust and faith in God's blessing, that any success will result from God's blessing, and that only He can provide for all that is needed—everything from building the team that God wants, to raising the needed financial resources, to protection, to equipping leaders, to using the overall STM experience to transform lives. Only God can do all that. Prayer demonstrates a humble dependence on the hand of God to be there.

Planning is also critical for a successful STM experience. Planning helps ensure intentionality in seeing that all participants (or stakeholders) are impacted positively. Planning provides the framework for establishing strategic long-term partnerships. Planning also involves counting the cost of making long-term commitments.

Some guidance on planning follows:

- Seek to determine how you can best serve the receiver host.
- Understand that the receiver host determines if and when you come and what you do.
- Be sure you are invited.
- Be sure the timing for a visit is good for the receiving community.
- Communicate openly and honestly in planning and developing a shared vision.
- Seek to lay the foundation for a long-term partnership.
- Seek to discern God's agenda for the trip—much prayer

Key Principle
Do not just go where and when you want, assuming that you are or will be a blessing!

Rigorous preparation is essential for successful cross-cultural ministry. Confronting those who engage in cross-cultural ministry is a host of challenges and opportunities. These include: anticipating the unforeseen; the necessity of being flexible; dealing with cross-cultural issues; and capitalizing on opportunities for personal growth. Cross-cultural ministry is challenging, unpredictable, exhausting, exhilarating, and can be a mutual blessing to all participants. In sum, cross-cultural ministry is laced with unknowns, thus the need for flexibility.

The entire experience of STM begins with an idea. This idea must rest on a solid Biblical foundation as well as on prayer, planning, and preparation.

Key Principle

We need a long-term view of short-term missions.

Facilitator note:

Review the key ideas for the session and close the session with prayer, if appropriate, that offers up thanksgiving and praise for God's compassion for the lost. Pray that God will stir the hearts of his people to go and take the love of Christ in word and deed to a broken world. Pray that God will use STM to transform lives at home and in receiving communities all for his glory.

Session IV The Birth of a STM Idea

Facilitator notes:

Session purpose: To present an approach for developing a vision for STM trips.

Key ideas:

- The most important aspect of planning STM is prayer.
- There are many different possible themes for STM trips.
- Strategic decisions must be made on where the STM team will go and the target group for ministry outreach. These will rest on needs and opportunities.

“Everyone knows that short-term missions benefit the people who come, not the people here.”⁹

Somewhere, sometime, somehow, someone in your church thought about or decided to undertake a STM trip. A short-term mission is an exciting prospect, but it demands a great deal of planning as discussed in the previous session. Preparations should begin at least nine months in advance of any proposed STM travel.

Personal Reflection

Think of a STM trip sponsored by your church. What were the factors that resulted in that trip and how did they decide where to go?

[Afterwards, select specific people to share their experience. Probe with follow-up questions.]5 minutes

Where teams are being sent by a local church, the pastor and the missions and outreach committees should be informed as early as possible of any interest in undertaking a STM trip. Counsel should be solicited from the church leadership and the missions committee.

The pastor will probably recommend that the church leadership and others in key leadership roles be invited to pray about the mission. The importance of prayer cannot be overstated. It is very important to discern the Lord’s will for the mission. Pray from the beginning that the Lord will make known his plans for the mission, including his choice for the team leader(s) and team members.

Key Principle

From the very beginning, the most important aspect of STM is PRAYER.

The following table lists the steps for planning a STM trip.

⁹ JoAnn VanEngen, *The Other Side*, Jan-Feb 2000.

Planning Steps for a STM Trip
Step 1 – Develop a vision
Step 2 – Decide where to go
Step 3 – Decide on the trip purpose
Step 4 – Decide on the target group of interest
Step 5 – Decide on who should or could go

Step 1 – Developing a vision

The early stage in planning is one of discernment. It is always helpful to seek the counsel of others who have been involved in STM trips in the past. Next, the individual(s) considering a STM should communicate with a missionary or other person in the receiving host country. [Note: SAMS can assist a local parish in identifying possible locations to visit.]

Some key questions to be asked early in the process include:

- Why are we thinking about doing this mission?
- What is the overall STM trip objective?
- Does it fit into the missions vision of our church?
- Is our vision shared by the on-site receiver host?
- How can we measure success?

An idea about a STM typically begins with information about needs and opportunities in a country and location of interest. This often rests on the existence of a relationship with a missionary who is supported by the local parish or with a particular mission that has an outreach to a target group of interest. SAMS can assist planning by identifying the ministry opportunities available. The SAMS STM coordinator can contact receiver hosts about your interests.

If the receiver host invites your team to work with them, they will advise you about ministry needs and opportunities and the best dates for a visit. The receiver host plays a key role in making in-country arrangements that will be discussed in Lesson 2.

Once you have established the date and worked with the receiver host to develop a vision of purpose for the STM trip, the groundwork has been laid to engage more seriously the senders. And once you have a shared vision for the STM trip and have clearly identified your goal or objective, you can begin to recruit to form a team (see Session VI).

In essence, then, the process of planning begins with:

- Understanding needs and opportunities in the field
- Understanding and choosing among the wide array of possibilities for STM trips
- Involving both senders and receivers early in the process
- Developing a shared vision of purpose and trip goals with all participants

There are essentially three categories of STM trips, as summarized in the following table:

Category of STM Trip	Characteristics
Relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term in focus • Addresses immediate needs • Can lead to development objectives if planned • Easiest type of STM trip to plan
Reconstruction/Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically involves rebuilding after a natural disaster • Has intermediate objectives • Ownership is a critical issue
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term in focus • Seeks to build capacity • Must rest on a partnership • Is difficult to plan and implement

Step 2 – Deciding where to go

There are four criteria in deciding on a target location for a STM trip. These are:

1. **Opportunity and need**—Is there a partnering missionary on-site? Is there a need that a STM team can address?
2. **Strategic**—Is there a mission on the receiving end with whom our local church may have interest in developing a long-term partnership?
3. **Risks**—Are there health and safety issues that need to be considered?
4. **Cost and time**—What are the approximate cost and time requirements for traveling to that location and how might those realities constrain recruiting a team?

STM can be domestic or international. Trips can focus on relief, construction, or development objectives and can target urban or rural areas as well as certain target groups of interest.

Step 3 – Deciding on the trip purpose

Possible STM Themes

Vacation Bible School	Youth Camps
Street Ministry	Veterinarian
Literature Distribution	Business as Mission
Healing/Prayer	Service/Helps
Family therapy	Drama/arts
Sports	Construction/Well Drilling
Medical	Teaching/Training
Relief	Agronomy/Agriculture
Family/Marriage Seminars	Vision Trip

It is obvious that the range of possibilities in designing a STM trip is wide and is only limited by one's creativity.

Vision trips are becoming increasingly popular. Such trips involve only few people and are designed to be a time for discernment. Minimal resources are required given the limited involvement with respect to both the number of people involved and time required. Yet such trips can lay the groundwork for more productive STM team visits in the future should the discernment process lead in that direction.

Examples from Scripture of what might be characterized as “vision trips” include the 12 spies who spent 40 days scoping out the promised land (Numbers 13-14) and the two men who were sent to spy out Jericho (Joshua 1:24). Vision trips may be most appropriate for those churches without an existing missions program.

Step 4 – Deciding on the target group of interest

Given the huge range of needs by people in the Majority World, decisions about identifying a target group for ministry can be difficult. Your on-site missionary or other point of contact can help in this decision-making. Some possible target groups may include:

- Local parish
- Church leadership
- Specific neighborhood or community
- General population
- Prison inmates or those in transition
- College/young adults
- Youth
- Children in a community
- Street kids
- Orphans
- Nursing home
- Home for abused women or the disadvantaged—deaf, physically handicapped, blind
- Displaced people because of a natural disaster or civil strife
-

Step 5 – Deciding who should or could go

The range of possibilities of short-term missionaries includes individuals, couples, families, small groups (3-5), typical groups (7-15), and large groups (>15). The appropriate make-up of your STM team depends on the purpose of the trip and the vision for STM of the sending church.

A group that can particularly benefit from the STM experience is young adults or college students.

“Particularly for college students, short-term cross-cultural experiences have the potential for being one of the most formative and ‘worldview shaping’ pedagogical experiences of their college career.”¹⁰

During the process of developing an idea about a STM trip, it is essential that both the senders and receivers are intentionally involved.

Session VII presents a full discussion on how to form a STM team.

¹⁰¹⁰ David M. Johnstone, “Closing the gap: debriefing and the short-term college mission team,” *Missiology*, Vol. XXXIV, no. 4, October 2006, p.528

Facilitator note:

Review the key ideas for the session and close the session with prayer, if appropriate, to thank God for his presence and work in the midst of all the planning. Pray that God will bless those who participate in developing a vision for the STM trip and that God's purposes will be realized. Pray that God will go before the team to prepare the hearts of those who will be the receiving community in their country of destination.

Session V

Engaging Senders and Receivers in Pre-Field Planning

Facilitator notes:

Session purpose: To outline the importance of engaging both senders and receivers early in the STM planning process.

Key ideas:

- The preparation process is a critical time to maximize the impact of STM on the local church, including raising missions awareness
- The team leader needs to build strategic bridges with both the senders and the receivers in order to maximize impacts.
- The team leader must nurture relationships throughout the STM process

As has been mentioned, engaging the senders and receivers early in the STM planning process helps ensure maximum long-term impacts. Both categories of participants play critical roles in determining the success of any STM trip, as well as stand to reap substantial blessings. The purpose of this session is to present a rationale for intentionally engaging those who send and those who receive.

Small Group Activity

The pre-field planning process can be a strategic time for building bridges with the sending church. What are some of these bridges and how would you go about building them? [A spokesperson should share the group's discoveries.] – 15 minutes

Engaging the senders

First, who are “the senders?” Foundationally, it is the Lord Jesus Christ who sends, as mentioned earlier, and who promises to be with us as we go (Matthew 28:20) with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). Most commonly, it is the local church that sends out STM teams. However, Dioceses are also known to send teams. In addition, mission organizations, individuals, businesses, schools, and professional organizations may also send short-term missionaries to the field.

The focus in this manual with respect to senders is on the local church that historically has sent the majority of STM teams to the ends of the earth. With God’s blessing, this will continue. And because of the central role the local church plays in STM, leaders of teams must be equipped to engage the senders with two objectives in mind: (1) to elevate missions awareness and (2) to maximize the long-term impact on the local church.

Studies suggest that local churches should be interested in STM for many reasons. Obedience to God’s call “to go” will no doubt be blessed by God. Involvement by local churches in *missio Dei* results in many benefits, not the least of which is that STM involvement energizes the local church. The people grow in their vision for outreach and commitment to world mission by being involved in STM. STM demands undergirding prayer which releases spiritual power among the

people in the local church. Giving for missions increases. Involvement in STM can also attract new members.¹¹

STM involvement can open doors for service in ministry. The act of preparing to be a leader of a STM team can translate into leadership development that will bless the local church. STM involvement helps strengthen relationships with missionaries, especially with those being supported through prayer and/or finances. Individuals get to know the missionaries in a personal way, blessing both. The bottom line for the local church is that STM involvement can transform a church forever!

“Mission, in its widest as well as its more focused sense,
is what the church is there for.”¹²

Support by the sending church, and by implication the church leadership, is critical for successful STM. But STM success also depends on those who provide support with prayer, finances, logistics, encouragement, communications, and re-entry.

The team leader(s) must seize the opportunity to mobilize missions awareness in the local church where there is need and opportunity. It is important that the team leader seek to build bridges with the local church. To do this well requires that one must learn how the church operates—how decisions are made. This outreach must be strategic and intentional so that the local church has “ownership” in the mission. While this will take time, the groundwork is being laid for future teams who can capitalize on the heightened interest and awareness.

Other strategic interventions can include getting the pastor involved, especially to go on a STM trip. Parish awareness can also be heightened by commissioning those who go just prior to departure. Such a commissioning service could be followed up with a reception.

In conclusion, the bridges that can be built with the local church may include:¹³

- Communication throughout the process
- Submission to the authority of the leadership
- Recruiting people to pray
- Involving many people financially
- Asking the church for a commissioning service
- Reporting back

Key Principle

The preparation process is a critical time to maximize the impact of STM on the local church.

In addition to engaging the senders, the sending church has a set of pre-field responsibilities with respect to the STM team. First, representatives of the church must be involved in developing a vision for the STM trip. This should result in a measure of “ownership” by the local church. Second, the sending church has a role to play in building support and raising funds. Third, the local church should assist in recruiting, screening, and selecting those who will

¹¹ See, for example, Roger Peterson and Timothy Peterson, “Is Short-Term Mission Really Worth the Time and Money?” STEM Ministries, Minneapolis: STEMPress, December 1991. www.STEMmin.org. However, it should be noted that many believe the positive impacts of involvement by local churches in STM are of a short-term nature. Unfortunately, there is an insufficient database on which to make firm conclusions, except to say the potential for significant impact is real.

¹² N.T. Wright, *Simply Christian*. San Francisco: Harper, 2006, p. 204.

¹³ YWAM, *Stepping Out: A Guide to Short-Term Missions*, Seattle: YWAM Publishing, 1992.

participate on the STM trip. And, finally, the sending church has a key responsibility in providing the undergirding prayer support for the STM trip.

Establishing a prayer support network in the sending church is one of the major ways to engage the local parish and raise missions awareness. Such support can engage many different components of the church—missions and outreach committees, vestry, choir, adult education classes, youth program, children's Sunday school classes, cell groups, Bible study groups, etc.

Prayer support is needed for the following:

- Filling and empowerment by the Holy Spirit so that those who go will be effective witnesses for Christ
- For trip logistics, personal health, support, and other concerns
- For the on-field receiver hosts and the target group of outreach
- For effective team training, on-field debriefing, and post-field follow through
- Each person who goes should have a prayer partner who will walk with them in this journey

Engaging the receivers

Just as those who send should have a vested interest in the STM, so should those who receive the team in the host country. Receiver hosts should be interested in helping plan the STM trip because such visits can:

- Help develop relationships with supporting and other churches
- Be a source of encouragement to the on-site missionary
- Can provide a conduit for increased financial support
- Provide an opportunity to share their vision in equipping others for ministry
- Result in lasting friendships and partnerships
- Accomplish projects perhaps not otherwise feasible, given the limitations of time, resources, and even skills of the receiver hosts

Receiver hosts have a set of pre-field responsibilities as well. These include: the mutual design of the visit with the senders and the leaders of the STM team; provide logistical support for those who come—lodging, transportation, and guidance on finances; and provide information on risks. The receiver host can help ensure that the focus of the STM trip remains on the intended recipients of the ministry.

Building Strategic Partnerships

What is a partnership anyway? A complementary relationship is driven by a common purpose. It is sustained by a willingness to learn and grow together in obedience to God. For complementary partnerships to be successful, the partnering organizations must be independent of one another. They must be compatible in doctrinal beliefs and ministry values. Each partner must know and be willing to exchange complementary strengths and resources.

A major goal in focusing on establishing and nurturing partnerships is to achieve economic and other development objectives. Development happens when people learn, take charge of their own lives, and solve their own problems. Development, then, is that which people do for themselves.

Developmental partnerships are conscious efforts to strengthen the self-developing capabilities of the receiving organization. Such partnerships:

- Equip
- Empower
- Build capacity
- Build self-esteem
- Build independence and interdependence

Key Principle
The poor want to be empowered, not made dependent.

Clearly, a successful partnership must rest on a mutually developed shared vision, trust, and openness and honest communication. Such partnerships demand a long-term commitment. This necessity for a long-term commitment is explained by the multi-dimensional nature of poverty. Furthermore, successful developmental partnerships demand that both partners have the desire and ability to cross cultures.

A helpful Biblical teaching that can be applied to counting the cost of a long-term commitment to development goals can be found in Luke 14:28-30:

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost (emphasis added) to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'"

An important component of successful strategic developmental partnerships is accountability. The concept is easy to understand but difficult to implement. Furthermore, accountability must be a two-way street. Both partners must be held accountable to each other. Such accountability is essentially the difference between partnerships and paternalism. The great challenge to short-term teams and implementing strategies is that accountability must be understood in the context of the receiving culture. Rules of operation and values in such partnerships vary across cultures. At a minimum, clear expectations are essential and must be effectively communicated. Cross-cultural communication issues will be dealt with in Lesson 3.

The objective of developmental partnerships should be to build capacity in the receiving community, mission, target group, etc. In building capacity, the focus is on identifying and building on assets instead of focusing on needs. The underlying principle here is the goal of enabling people who are created in the image of God to release their energies and creativity. Outsiders cannot impose change but can help facilitate self-development of skills. Again, the shared understanding is that both partners are equal participants—all learn from one another. STM efforts in this arena must be to enhance the self-sufficiency and self-determination of the receiving community. Follow-up training may be the value added by future STM teams.

In conclusion, each decision about undertaking a STM trip must consider three challenging questions:

1. In our STM efforts, are we contributing to the self-developing capabilities of our partners?
2. Does our involvement make our brothers and sisters better able to serve according to their own gifts and calling?
3. Are we seeking to build capacity or relieve needs?

Now that strategic bridges have been built with both senders and the receiving community, the team leader will begin the process of forming a STM team.

Facilitator notes:

Review the key ideas for the session and close the session with prayer, if appropriate, that you will be able to discern God's purposes for undertaking a STM trip. Pray the Lord will go before you as you seek to build bridges with both senders and the receivers so that the impacts of the STM experience will be positive on all participants and long-lasting. Pray that the STM trip will be a blessing to the host receiver and his/her ministry.

Session VI Forming a STM Team

Facilitator notes:

Session purpose: To describe what is involved in forming a STM team.

Key ideas:

- Prayer must undergird the team formation process.
- A core group of individuals with experience in STM can be a great asset.
- The motivation for going on a STM trip influences what happens when you get there.

Once the team leader(s) has (have) been identified and bridges have been established with the senders and receivers, the next step is forming the team that will go and engage in cross-cultural ministry. Team formation is ultimately something to be entrusted to God.

As you communicate with the wider church community about a short-term mission opportunity, you will undoubtedly have people interested in participating. One of the major challenges the leader will face is establishing guidelines for team member selection and carefully discerning who will be included as members of the team.

Sending the “wrong people” can threaten the ministry of the team as well as actually impede the ministry of the receiver host. On the other hand, an effective team will further the work of the in-field receiver and be a blessing to the people with whom they are working.

The overall process in forming a team for cross-cultural ministry can be outlined as follows:

- Step 1: Pray for God to guide and bless the team formation process
- Step 2: Assemble a core group
- Step 3: Form the team

After the team has been formed the process of team-building continues (Lesson 1), followed by preparing the team for cross-cultural ministry (Lessons 4 and 5).

As has been stressed throughout the STM process, prayer must undergird each step. Again, all participants want the STM trip to reflect God’s will and purposes. Having those participate whom God wants is central to realizing maximum impact.

Assembling a core group

The next step is to assemble a core group that will be the base on which an effective team can be built. Ideally, the core group will include individuals with STM experience. These will also be people who are respected and “in the know” in the local parish context. Depending on the purposes of the trip, the core group may also include individuals with certain skills relating to the team project to be undertaken once in the field. An overriding goal is to include people in any core group who may play strategic roles in future trips.

The core group then begins to enter into dialogue either directly or indirectly with others potentially interested. Invitations of interest are solicited. Since it is likely that not all individuals expressing interest will be accepted to participate, an application process is needed. The pastor

or other church leader should play a key role in the examination of candidates and in the final selection process.

Selecting team members

Small Group Activity

*What kind of people would you not want to invite to participate on a STM team?
[A spokesperson should report on the group's discoveries.] – 15 minutes*

The vision and purpose of the STM trip will be an important consideration in determining who can be a member of the team. The selection process must rest on a set of criteria deemed appropriate in the eyes of the team leader, those who send, and those who receive. Some possible criteria include:

- Only believers?
- Only those deemed to be spiritually mature?
- Only with a pastor's recommendation?
- Only those who exceed a minimum age?
- Only sending church members? Or will outsiders such as friends of participants or those from a partnering church be invited?
- People with special skills or gifts?
- Only healthy individuals, i.e. screen for limiting physical or other conditions?

Including outsiders on the team results in what is called a "patchwork team." One can solicit and include individuals from sister churches or friends of participants. Such teams afford the opportunity to achieve greater diversity as well as the opportunity for ministry. However, such teams can be a challenge to team leadership and team-building.

Again, faithful prayer, trust in the Lord, and discernment will help guide those who select members.

Key Principle

In general, there is something that virtually anyone can do on most STM trips.

So what would be the ideal (but not necessarily essential) team member qualities? The following table lists some desired characteristics of a team member:

Believer	The team member should exemplify a relationship with Jesus that will enable him or her to relate the Good News of Jesus to individuals on the mission field. However, some teams are designed intentionally to include non-Christians for purposes of evangelism.
Teachable	None of us has arrived. Each of us is in the “not yet” position of being sanctified. It is how we welcome growth that will make the difference in a STM experience. Thus, humility is an essential quality for the team member.
Servant’s heart	The attitude of servanthood will help those who go avoid paternalistic attitudes in cross-cultural ministry. The short-term missionary is not going to change the world in two weeks; but the relationships they establish can affect a life.
Team player	The team member should have the ability and heart’s desire to work with other members of the team as well as be willing to submit to those in authority on the team and in the field context. The team member should be willing to commit to participating in all training sessions.
Flexible	As mentioned earlier, trips to the Majority world and involvement in cross-cultural ministry are laced with uncertainties. The team member must be able to “go with the flow” and adapt to altered plans, unforeseen situations, and cultural norms and values.
Good health	Including individuals with physical liabilities or with chronic health problems should be done with great care. Individuals with diet restrictions may also find travel into the developing world excessively challenging.

Note: Including individuals on the STM team who have the language proficiency of your country of destination can be extremely valuable.

The size of the team typically depends on the purpose of the trip, the number of leaders and possibly chaperones available, and the financial resources available. Missionaries have recommended good average sizes for different types of teams as follows:

Type of STM Team	Average Size (# persons)
Construction	12-15
Medical	15
Teach Bible School	8
Business-as-Mission	2-3
Drama	8
Sports	7
Veterinarian	7
Prayer/Healing	5
Teaching	3
Street Evangelism	10
Vision Trip	3-4

Motivation for going

<p>Question & Dialogue</p> <p><i>Why do people go on short-term mission trips?</i></p> <p><i>[Rapid brainstorming session: Solicit brief responses from many people & discuss.] – 5 minutes</i></p>
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The selection process may also consider the motivation for people wanting to participate as a team member. What actually motivates people to participate and go is, in fact, quite complicated. Most people want to participate because of a wide variety of motivations which oftentimes are not well understood even by the individual. The next session on team-building seeks to bring some coherence to the shared motivation of ministry to others.

Key Principle
Our motivation for going influences what happens when we get there!

Care should be taken in how we characterize a STM opportunity. Participating on a STM trip has been advertised as: “Missions should be fun!” Our motivation for going must be consonant with God’s purposes for the ministry. Do individuals participate because the shopping will be great or because they will be able to see monkeys in the wild? Am I driven by my sense of adventure or desire to follow Christ? All of this brings us back to the fundamental question of: What makes a trip a “missions trip?”

It is no doubt quite common that the motivation by many for going is the prospect of a cross-cultural adventure. The most common encouragement given for going is that “it will change your life.” However, when raising support, the reason shifts to: “It will change their lives.” But the fact remains that most people go for themselves. Part of the team-building process is to force some self-examination and to re-focus members on the vision and purpose for the trip.

Key Principle
Good intentions for going on a STM trip are not sufficient.

Altruistic motives for participating in a STM trip in order “to help the poor,” are simply insufficient in equipping one for ministry.

*Proverbs 19:2 - “It is not good to have zeal without knowledge,
nor to be hasty and miss the way.”*

In the final analysis and in all likelihood, there will be individuals who should not be accepted to participate. Such rejection risks offending people in such a way that may close the door to future ministry involvement. Wise team leaders will deal with these issues with great sensitivity, always seeking to identify alternative ministry opportunities where the individual can better serve the body of Christ. For example, participating first in a domestic outreach opportunity may be a more appropriate place for some individuals to experience the missions field. The degree of success here can yield useful information on their eligibility to participate in a more difficult ministry context in other countries.

Many short-term opportunities now seek to engage retired people. These are individuals with skills, maturity, time, and resources that can be used very effectively in ministry.

Once the team has been formed, the process of team-building begin

Facilitator note:
Review the key ideas for the session and close the session with prayer, if appropriate, that looks to the Lord to guide the formation of the team with the petition that he would bring those people he desires while keeping others away. Pray for wisdom for those making decisions and for sensitivity to avoid doing harm to relationships. Continue to pray for God’s blessing on the entire preparation process.

Session VII Building a STM Team

Facilitator notes:

Session purpose: To outline the process of building a STM team for maximum long-term impact.

Key ideas:

- Team-building takes time.
- The team-building process needs to be strategically planned and administered by the team leader who will be the catalyst for success.
- Members of the team must assume responsibilities and be accountable to the team.
- Adopting a team covenant can help build trust among members and a shared vision for ministry.

Team-building must precede the actual training and equipping that needs to be undertaken for effective STM ministry. During team-building, a collection of individuals is shaped into a group whose members share a vision and a commitment to the identified mission of the team.

Key Principle
Team-building takes time.

Those who have committed to the time necessary to be equipped for ministry will now go through a process of team-building that rests on the unity and diversity that characterizes effective teams. In fact, a comprehensive study has identified the following characteristics of effective teams.¹⁴ Such teams have:

- A clear and elevating goal
- A results-driven structure, including assignment of individual roles
- Competent team members
- A unified commitment to the success of the team
- A collaborative climate where qualities such as honesty, mutual respect, etc. govern
- Standards of excellence in all that is undertaken, including requisite skills
- External support and recognition
- Principled leadership

The team leader, therefore, will be the catalyst in team-building. Team-building does not just happen as you agree to meet. Rather, the process of team-building must be *intentional* and *planned*.

The first thing the group must do is to agree on a schedule for meetings. A schedule to meet over a six-month period is recommended. Routine meetings provide a forum for getting to know one another, developing relationships, sharing expectations and concerns about the anticipated STM trip, gaining information and learning, and general dialogue among members. Each meeting should intentionally incorporate the following components:

¹⁴ University of Denver study. Date unknown.

- Bible study (devotional) and prayer
- Language practice
- Issues about trip logistics
- Budget and funding issues/needs
- Team-building activities—including spiritual formation objectives
- Specific topics—team preparation (to be discussed in Lessons 4 and 5)

The process of team-building continues to be a time to discourage some individuals from participating. But most importantly, this process is a time for developing a shared vision for the STM trip and core values. Developing a shared vision must address issues such as:

- What is the vision for the STM trip?
- What are the desired outcomes?
- How can the team best prepare to achieve desired results?
- How will the team hope to measure success?
- What is the motivation for going for each team member?

Core values for teamwork include: a servant spirit and mutual respect for one another, an attitude of humility and willingness to sacrifice for others, commitment to the success of the team, commitment to the resolution of any conflicts, and recognition that people are individuals—we are all different!

The leader may want to delegate responsibilities to different individuals for the devotions. This will provide some insight into the spiritual life of the individual and will prayerfully be a blessing to him or her. A number of Biblical texts can be used from which to draw some implications for group building.¹⁵ Example texts include:

- Romans 15:1-7
- Philippians 2:1-4, 5-11
- John 17:21-23
- Matthew 5:23-24

Personal Reflection

A covenant is a tool that can help bring cohesion, shared vision, and commitment to an effort. What do you think should be the components of a STM team covenant? [Invite individuals to share their ideas and probe with follow-up questions.] – 5 minutes

In addition to having ownership in a shared vision for the STM trip, the team should adopt a team covenant. A team covenant can be statement of commitment by each member that he or she will, by God's grace, seek to:

- love one another
- bless one another
- be a blessing to the nationals
- be a blessing to the receiver hosts/missionaries
- fulfill God's purpose for the trip
- dedicate the time necessary for team-building and preparation



¹⁵ Helpful pre-field devotional guides include Howard & Bonnie Lisech, *Pre-Field Preparation: Spiritual Focus Before You Go*, Orlando: Deeper Roots Publications, 2006, and Cindy Judge, *Before you Pack our Bag Prepare Your Heart*, available from STEMPress at www.STEMmin.org. Some devotionals are included in the resource CD.

A sample covenant is included in Lesson 4 of the companion resource CD.

Team members need to understand their roles and responsibilities as team members. Individual members, being created in the image of God, will bring their own giftedness to the group. The team-building process will hopefully contribute to the process of gift discovery. Such gifts can then be utilized for the benefit of the functioning of the entire team and its ministry.

Members can also adopt or be assigned certain roles that will help promote team success once in the country of destination. Such roles may include:

- Daily responsibility for the availability of snacks and drinks while traveling in-country
- Taking photographs
- Media person for recording video and preparation of a DVD on return from the field
- Translator
- Keeping track of luggage on departure, arrival, and return
- Managing the finances when in the field
- Exchanging currency when in-country
- Preparing and maintaining a first-aid kit or other medicines commonly needed by travelers

In conclusion, the major pre-field responsibilities of those who are team members are to:

- Pray, pray, pray
- Secure sending supporters, especially prayer intercessors
- Participate in fundraising
- Prepare for cross-cultural ministry
 - Prepare his or her own heart for God's purposes in the mission
 - Prepare for the required trip logistics
 - Prepare as a group for the anticipated on-field STM ministry

Short-term missions can only be effective if the members work together as a team. It is extremely important that team members trust, respect and desire to care for each other while they are engaged in the mission. Team members should expect to make a commitment to each other through all phases of the mission experience.

Support and fundraising begins during the process of team-building.

Facilitator note:

Please review the key ideas for the session and close with prayer, if appropriate, with thanksgiving for God's hand in assembling the team, for the Lord's blessing on each team member and that God's purposes for each individual would be realized. Pray that God would unite the hearts of team members with a shared vision for ministry. Begin to pray for one another on the team.



PART TWO

**Equipping
STM Teams**

Introduction

This section contains seven lessons that present the core information necessary for equipping a team. Each lesson is designed to be covered within a three-hour time frame. The lessons are:

Lesson 1	Raising Funds and Support
Lesson 2	Trip Logistics
Lesson 3	Understanding Poverty and the Poor
Lesson 4	Preparing for Cross Cultural Ministry (part 1)
Lesson 5	Preparing for Cross Cultural Ministry (part 2)
Lesson 6	In-Country Ministry
Lesson 7	Re-Entry and Follow Through

Each lesson will be structured with the following nine components:

Component	Description
1. Getting to Know One Another	Team Building
2. Corporate Worship	Worship and Practice for Cross Cultural Ministry
3. Spiritual Formation	Reinforce Team's Role as Christian Missionaries
4. Knowledge Builder	Education for Your Team about the Lesson topic
5. Culture	Broaden your Team's Cultural Understanding
6. Language	Foundation in Cross Cultural Communication
7. Practical Preparation	Share information about logistics and finances
8. Project Preparation	Practice, prepare, and improve project plans
9. Debriefing and Closing	Cultivate appreciation for debriefing component

Because each team is unique, the facilitator must decide which areas may need the most emphasis. It should be noted that each lesson contains more information than the facilitator will likely use. The trainer can directly follow the lesson plan that is provided or can modify the various components as deemed most appropriate and necessary. The trainer will have to decide which presentation materials to use. Additional resources are offered on the Resource CD.

Following this section is a set of Lesson Plans to facilitate teaching Lessons 1 - 7

Lesson 1 Raising Funds & Support

Facilitator notes:

Session purpose:

To describe the process of raising funds and other support for a successful STM trip.

Key ideas:

- Support-raising is a strategic time for team-building.
- In order to fundraise well, it is important to develop a realistic budget for the team.
- Support-raising is a strategic time for spiritual development for the team and the entire congregation.
- Support-raising is about relationships
- Identifying prayer supporters for the STM team is foundational to success.

Raising support for a STM trip can be a dreaded and frightening experience for many individuals. Some of this no doubt can be explained by our tendencies to think about our faith in an individualistic or personal manner rather than one that is connected to our community. However, the notion of missions support is well grounded in the New Testament. Raising support, at a minimum, includes identifying prayer supporters and raising the necessary funds.

Key Principle
Support-raising is a strategic time for team-building.

First, consider the top five excuses for not wanting to raise funds:¹⁶

Reason	Response
#1 That is a lot of money	If God wants you to go then it is His responsibility to provide the funds—God simply wants you to trust Him.
#2 I feel like I am begging	We are inviting people to invest in what God is doing and to be part of the blessing.
#3 I just don't see it as Biblical to ask for Money	Not true. Paul asked for support for his mission trips.
#4 I have a lot of friends but they do not have a lot of money to give	God wants people to give. You will be surprised about who gives and who does not.
#5 I'm afraid	What makes the difference is how passionate you are in what God is calling you to do. Ultimately, God is in control.

Key Principle
In order to fundraise well, it is necessary to develop a realistic budget for the trip.

¹⁶ Go Prepared, Orlando: TCCI Productions, 1999. www.tcci.org. This set of DVDs is an excellent resource that can also be used in equipping short-term missions teams.

Develop a realistic budget for the team and for each member

The team will need to develop a budget before beginning the fundraising. This will provide the necessary information on how much money needs to be raised to support the mission. Each short-term mission is different and the expenses will vary according to your destination, length of visit, activities of the team, and other considerations and trip objectives. In addition, each individual should be prepared for some out-of-pocket expenditures as well.

All STM teams will need financial support to cover the following basic expense categories:

<u>Air Travel</u>	This will be the biggest expense of your mission. Start early (if possible, at least six months before the expected travel dates) and get several quotes before you make your decision. Utilizing travel agents with experience in traveling to your country of interest is likely more important than simply using someone in your sending church. A list of some helpful websites is included in the resource CD.
<u>Taxes/Visa</u>	Most countries levy an airport exit tax before departure. Such taxes are not included in the ticket price and must be paid out-of-pocket. A team member with responsibility for handling the in-country finances should ensure the availability of such funds in the proper currency. Some countries also require visas for entrance. Your receiver host can advise about such requirements and their costs.
<u>*Insurance (optional)</u>	There are many agencies that can help you with travel and medical insurance for your short-term mission. Check with your church about their insurance policy and with other knowledgeable people. Some travel insurance agencies are listed in the companion resource CD.
<u>Lodging and meals</u>	The receiver host will provide information regarding options and the cost of housing and food during your visit.
<u>In-country travel</u>	Your receiver host will sometimes make these arrangements and inform you of the cost. The cost may include the rental of a bus or van, including a fee for the driver, and fuel expenses.
<u>In-country ministry</u>	STM teams may incur on-field project-related costs. These must be included in the budget. The receiver host can provide estimates.
<u>Gifts/tips</u>	The team may want to give a tip or gift to your in-country transportation provider, lodging host, host mission, etc.
<u>Other costs</u>	Some dioceses have a per-person or per-team assessment which helps cover the expenses of any individual who may accompany the team during its visit. The receiver host can provide such information.
<u>Contingency</u>	Undoubtedly you will incur extra expenses such as for camera supplies, mailing expenses, etc. These can be significant. Therefore, be prepared with an extra 5% of your budget for these expenses

These costs, summed together, comprise the overall team budget and the funds that need to be raised. The total budget will seem to be a substantial sum of money to raise, but it can be done!

Successful fundraising will necessitate prayer, careful planning, and commitment to the mission. In general it is better to be over-funded than under-funded. Excess money from the trip can be returned to your church or reserved for the next missions trip.

The more commitment each team member has to raising funds, the more commitment he or she will have to the mission. In general, each team member should contribute a reasonable amount of personal funds toward his or her own share of the budget. Personal sacrifice will make the mission much more meaningful.

In addition to the overall team budget, individuals will have other expenses as well. The following expenses should be personally covered by individual team members. Summed together, they comprise the individual team member's budget.

Passport Some team members may need to obtain passports.

Immunizations Recommendations for any immunizations for your country of destination can be found at the Center for Disease Control website found in the resource CD. Cost estimates can be obtained from your physician, a travel clinic, or the local health department.

Side Trips A side trip that further exposes your team to the host country and its culture can enhance the overall experience. Such may also provide a transition time for debriefing (to be discussed in Session 6) prior to departure. Your receiver host may be able to help in advising on options and their costs.

Personal The amount of personal spending money will vary, depending on the individual's plans to purchase gifts, travel souvenirs, etc. Other additional personal costs may be incurred e.g., personal needs, travel books, shopping, snacks, internet café use, bottled water, etc. Individuals should be prepared to carry some extra money for their personal budgets.

<p><i>Key Principle</i> <i>Support-raising is a strategic time for spiritual development for both the team and the senders.</i></p>

Guidance in fundraising

Fundraising should not be an area of disdain in your mission preparation. It can be a time of great creativity and team-building as well as community building for the sending congregation. This is an area where people can work together towards the common goal of funding a mission team and learning together about the importance of missions. Even though few members of the congregation will travel with the team, the entire church can share in the satisfaction of sending the team.

The sending church generally serves a supportive role in fundraising. This does not necessarily mean that the church should finance the mission. If the church sends out several teams a year, it may not want fundraising within the church membership. The church may choose to support each short-term missionary with a financial gift and request that the fundraising take place outside the church membership. Check with your church leadership to determine the financial role your church will play, if any, in the fundraising for your mission.

The sending church can benefit through fielding a short-term missions team, and this information should be readily shared when there is opportunity. Short-term missions can:

- enhance mission awareness in the local church
- offer an opportunity to be personally involved in missions.
- expand the sending church's worldview.
- provide a discernment opportunity for potential long-term missionaries
- educate local missions leaders through cross-cultural experience
- foster spiritual growth and formation among its members
- raise up leaders
- build up the work of the sending church's missionaries
- unify the sending church through the cooperative effort of sending the team

Question & Dialogue

*What are some advantages of asking others for support versus self-funding?
[Solicit ideas from specific individuals and probe with follow-up questions.] – 5 minutes*

Our natural tendency, as independent and self-reliant individuals, is to try to pay for such trips ourselves, if at all possible. We often have little problem in incurring debt by putting costs onto a credit card. It is important, however, to consider seriously whether or not this is the best way to learn the important lessons that God may wish to teach us.¹⁷

If we search the scriptures to discern Biblical principles for funding missions outreach, we can see that God's ways are not our ways. The following is a comparison of different approaches to funding a STM trip.

The 8th and 9th chapters of II Corinthians provide strong, clear teaching on what God does when we allow others the privilege of sharing in our ministry through providing financial support. These chapters provide valuable principles, models, and illustrations that can be studied during the team-building process.

Those raising funds and other support for their STM trip must understand that when the Lord is in it, He will provide. People will give. Believers want to serve the Lord, and they can do so by being generous. Many cannot go on STM trips for various reasons and, therefore, can do so vicariously by what you are proposing to do. Furthermore, if people are convinced of the value of your mission because you have articulated your vision well they will want to support it.

The following contrasts the two approaches of fund raising:

¹⁷ See Vicki Tanin et al., *Sending Out Servants: Church-Based Short-Term Missions Strategy*, Atlanta: Advancing Churches in Missions Commitment, 1955.

Asking For Funds	Self-Funding
Involving other people to partner	Paying your own way
Leads to humility	Results in pride
Results in dependency	Results in independency
Results in accountability to others	Leads to autonomy
Trusting God for provision	Trusting self for provision
Strengthens faith in God	Results in self-reliance
Will be a blessing to those who partner	Will bless the one who goes

Some Biblical concepts on which fundraising efforts should be based are as follows:

- **Interdependence**—Romans 15:24, III John 7,8. This relates to God’s desire for the church to function as a body, interdependently.
- **Living by faith**—II Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:6. Faith pleases the Lord for it demonstrates trust and confidence when the external evidence might suggest otherwise.
- **Trusting God’s provision**—Philippians 4:19; I Thessalonians 5:24. Since participants are convinced that God has ordained the proposed STM trip, they can be confident that He will be faithful in making adequate provision. The participant is to stand firm in this trust.
- **Good stewardship**—I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; Ephesians 5:15-16; I Timothy 6:18. God wants us to be faithful in our use of all that he has given us.

The team must go about fundraising and other support in a way that speaks of godly wisdom. The following verses attest to the need for our wisdom that comes from God himself:

- Psalm 111:10—the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
- Proverbs 2:6—for the Lord gives wisdom
- Proverbs 3:13—blessed is the man who finds wisdom
- Proverbs 4:11—I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths

Some other principles in fundraising are:

- Be aware of any local parish guidelines with respect to raising funds or other support
- Involve the entire team
- Develop a realistic budget of expected expenses
- The team collectively should develop a fundraising strategy before beginning the actual process.
- Develop an informational flyer.
- Be prepared for evangelistic opportunities throughout the entire fundraising effort.
- Testimonies from team members of previous trips can be very powerful tools for raising interest.
- Each participant should be prepared to articulate the vision for the STM trip.
- When presenting, be enthusiastic and positive.
- The strategy should include verbal sharing during a church service and hopefully on more than one occasion.
- Use a PowerPoint presentation in adult education classes or other such forums (e.g., Rotary Club meetings)

- Team should make list of potential contacts
- Write letters as writing to a friend. It should be one page and should be personal in sharing the vision and inviting the partnership of the recipient.
- Don't rely only on letters and email but use them and follow up.
- Make personal visits—relationships are critical.
- Make telephone calls and offer to send follow-up information.
- Include a response card with stamped return envelope in any mailings
- Send thank-you notes to those who agree to provide support.
- In soliciting partners, indicate that you will share about the trip on return.

<p><i>Key Principle</i> <i>Support-raising is about relationships</i></p>
--

Communication and feedback between supporters and goers is essential for successful STM. Those who go must be responsible to report back to those who support. This dialogue should begin before the actual trip takes place, continue during the trip to the extent feasible, and continue afterwards (to be discussed in Session XIII). Feedback is critical on re-entry.

In communicating with potential partners about your financial needs, the following should be addressed to some degree or another:

- Who you are
- Where you are going and why
- Who will host you
- Who you are going with
- What outcomes you expect
- How long the trip will take
- How much the trip will cost
- How much money is needed
- Where contributions can be sent

It is important to maintain a record of where letters are sent and of the names of those who provide support. Such a record will provide a list of supporters who will be invited to your presentations when the mission is completed. Sample Support Letters can be found in the Resource CD.

Interaction with potential supporters should always include an encouragement for people to pray about partnering with you. Trust God to turn the hearts of people so that they will support you. Potential contacts include: the sending church missions committee, people in the local church, family members, friends, individuals who are known to have a heart for missions, and businesses/employers.

The pitfalls to be avoided in fundraising include:

- Doing it on your own strength and not trusting God—ignoring the supernatural
- Fear about inviting others to partner with you in ministry
- Constrained by the bottom line of the checkbook
- The rich uncle syndrome, i.e. trying to find the one person with a lot of resources to underwrite the entire financial need

Key Principle

Support-raising is an opportunity for spiritual growth for both those raising support and for those who are blessed by their partnership.

Prayer Support

The other critical area in support-raising is prayer. The STM team must establish a prayer support team that walks with them throughout the journey—pre-field, on-field, and post-field. Furthermore, each member should have a specific individual who will serve as his or her prayer partner.

Other support will be needed in the areas of logistics and communications. Individuals who may not be able to partner financially may be able to participate in other forms of support. A core support team—or Home Team—can play a critical role in supporting the overall endeavor with prayer and counsel.

Fundraising events

There are myriads of opportunities for raising funds. Traditional fundraisers like car washes and bake sales have been used successfully to raise funds, but they don't necessarily connect the giver with the mission. You must be creative and discern what will work best in your situation. The one prerequisite is to use the opportunity to educate your supporters. The best way to get them "on board" with you is to tell them what you are doing and why you feel it is important. If you are successful in your motivation you will generally not have any problem obtaining financial support. Finally, it is critical that an individual be assigned the responsibility of keeping the financial records of the fund raising effort.

During the support-raising process, the team continues its preparations for cross-cultural ministry.

Facilitator note:

In closing, review the key ideas presented in this session and pray, if appropriate, thanking God for his faithfulness in our lives and pray that he would grant each person the ability to trust him for all our needs. Pray for wisdom on how best to raise the necessary support and that He would raise up individuals to partner with the STM team.

Lesson 2 Trip Logistics

Facilitator notes:

Session purpose: To describe the scope of logistical issues that must be carefully planned for a successful STM trip.

Key ideas:

- Careful planning prepares a team for any contingencies that may arise during the STM trip.
- The host receiver, or on-site coordinator, plays a key role in arranging for the on-field logistics.
- Construction and medical missions teams face unique challenges in cross-cultural ministry.
- Teams should consider the cultural value of planning some vacation time while in the host country.

A carefully planned and organized STM trip gives full attention to the range of logistical issues that characterize any STM trip. While the host receiver will have primary responsibility for most of the in-country logistics, the team leader must assume primary responsibility for the logistical concerns discussed in this session.

Additional resources for this session can be found on the Resource CD.

Documentation & Insurance

The most basic need is for proper documentation such as passports and visas. Each country of destination will have its own requirements. These can be learned by visiting the country website.¹⁸

Passports

U.S. citizens leaving the U.S. must hold a valid passport for departure and re-entry. The processing time for passports is variable, but individuals should allow 4 months minimum. Expedited service is available for rapid passport processing for an additional fee. Existing passports with less than 6 months until the time of expiration are not considered valid for country departure and re-entry.

Minors

Minors leaving the country without parents must have signed parental release forms. A sample guardianship form is included in the companion resource CD.

Liability

Liability is another key concern by those traveling on STM trips. Liability release forms should be signed by each team member to free any sending entity from liability during travel. A sample liability release form is included in the companion resource CD. The team leader should review with the team the U.S. immigration and customs process and forms prior to departure. Samples of these forms are included in the companion resource CD.

¹⁸ The U.S. website is: http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

Short-Term insurance

Other legal and insurance issues relate to trip and medical travel insurance. Trip insurance can often be purchased to cover any flight cancellation or baggage issues that may arise. Medical insurance can also be purchased to cover any health issues that may occur during travel and that otherwise would not be covered under individual health insurance plans.

Air and In-Country Travel

Air travel to and from the country of destination is typically the largest expense in the overall STM trip budget. The team leader should utilize a reliable travel agency with experience in travel to the country of destination. Inquiries should also be made with air carriers about allowances for any excess baggage or special items (e.g., medical supplies, equipment) the team may wish to transport. Travelers should also be aware of weight restrictions per piece of luggage. Such information can be obtained at the air carrier's website.

The receiver host can provide much valuable advice about making travel plans in general. Having someone "on the ground" in the host country to receive a STM team who also has knowledge and experience is a great asset in planning trip logistics. The receiver host will typically assume responsibility for making in-country travel and lodging arrangements that are mission-related.

Early in the planning process arrangements must be worked regarding the deposit of funds that are used by the host receiver to secure any travel or lodging arrangements. Any side trips for leisure may need to be planned by a travel agent or other person. This is generally not a responsibility of the receiver host.

On-Site Logistics

Project site logistics will typically be arranged by the receiver host. The vision for the project will have been mutually developed, involving the leadership of the STM team, the senders, the receiver host, and possibly the receiving community. The STM team and the receiver host must strategize on how best to involve the receiving community in the project. A general rule is to respect the wisdom of the receiving community and solicit their input in framing the project so that felt needs are met. Working with the local people can be a very effective way to build relationships and lay the foundation for long-term partnerships as discussed in Session 5.

Supplies for any project should be purchased in the local community to the extent possible. Tendencies by teams to bring in supplies (whether pencils, toothbrushes, etc.), even though they might be obtained *gratis*, must be considered very carefully. The goal is to promote local economic activity that in turn will provide needed jobs *and* build relationships for the host missionary. Projects must generally be avoided that displace local workers.

Construction Projects

Construction projects, as mentioned earlier, pose particular challenges for STM teams. These challenges relate to creating dependency, paternalism, and ownership. The planning of construction projects must recognize and appreciate the differences in cultures, as discussed in Lesson 4.

Many STM construction projects have failed in the past because of the tendency by STM teams to "over plan." It is critical that construction project planning incorporate "flexibility." Such flexibility must accommodate any necessary last minute changes to "the plan," a host of unknowns, and weather conditions.

Specifically, materials, and not always the desired quality, may not be available where they are needed. And even if they are available in the local markets, the materials may not arrive on-site when needed or may not arrive at all. Electricity and water that may be needed for the project may not always be available.

The STM planners should make an effort to understand local customs and methods. The local wisdom and traditions must be respected. Success in STM construction projects means that the focus will be on the purpose of the mission and not the project itself.



Key Principle Construction Projects – don't go too prepared

When planning a construction project, working with someone in-country and in whom you have confidence can be invaluable for the following:

- Getting the materials on-site before the team's arrival
- Facilitation of funds that are needed to pay for materials, food,
- Assessing as much information as possible regarding the tools that are
- Secure national workers whom the team will work on the project
- Secure national people to cook mid-day meals and teach the team cultural
- Be prepared to be patient - the project will typically take more time than you imagine

If possible, it is a great idea to send a few people on a vision trip to the site beforehand to scope out the project

Medical STM Missions

Another type of STM activity that needs some special consideration is medical missions. Such teams are typically quite diverse, depending on the skills of the participants and the purpose of the trip. These teams can focus on teaching/education, personal hygiene, veterinarian, physical therapy, chiropractic medicine, community health, or on very specific areas such as wheelchair maintenance.

While such trips demand a high degree of planning and professionalism in their conduct, such trips afford opportunities for virtually anyone to participate. Individuals who are helpers do not necessarily need medical training and skills, only a heart to serve with compassion.

Furthermore, it takes little effort to make such outreach holistic because it is quite natural to address both the physical and spiritual needs of the whole person at the same time. It takes little effort to integrate prayer into such projects. Many suggest that the gospel be presented only after actually seeing patients.

Again, care must be taken not to disrupt any local health provider networks. Such trips need careful planning and coordination with local indigenous entities to ensure their acceptance and the possibility of building bridges for future partnerships. While doctors may not always be able to practice in the receiving host country, they can often serve as mentors and teachers. Also, such trips should be strategically planned with local churches that may have the opportunity and responsibility to follow up.

The powerful advantage of engaging in short-term medical missions is that they can address very real felt needs. Furthermore, opportunities for evangelistic outreach abound. Individuals will visit a medical mission project site out of curiosity if not need, affording a grand opportunity to share the love in Christ in both word and deed. Also, the team member interacting with the national may be the only medical professional person who will ever be seen.

Nurses and health practitioners with broad health training bring extremely valuable skills to such projects. Supplies and equipment can be left behind with a responsible entity if possible. The fundamental reality is the need to be flexible with respect to the on-site requirements for space, water, electricity, light, and the complexity inherent in cross-cultural communication.

Even with all the potential for great benefits, there are numerous minefields that await the unsuspecting, such as:

- The risk of actually misdiagnosing a problem—e.g. lack of familiarity with tropical diseases
- Actually harming someone physically (e.g., mislabeled medication or immunization)
- Having an undesired outcome that could preclude future interventions by a medical missions team in the future (e.g., violating local customs)
- When things go awry, this can reflect badly on the ministry of the local missionary
- Communication problems that lead to frustration of both the providers and the receivers of the medical care

In reality, a STM medical missions team cannot hope to satisfy all the physical needs of even the targeted receiving community. It is generally not possible to see all those who want to be seen and treated.¹⁹

Some Practical Travel Tips

Following is a summary list of some practical travel tips that should be helpful in reducing anxiety for those who plan to travel and raising the likelihood of “success” in STM:

Cash & credit cards	Plan to use only cash in the Majority World, but inquire about using credit cards (and take only one). Take only what money you will need. The team leadership should be prepared with sufficient purchasing power to cover any unexpected expenses, such as fees for changes in the air travel itinerary. Take a money belt or something similar that well protects cash and other valuables.
Passports	The team leader should collect all passports on arrival in-country. Individuals should always carry a copy with them.
Photographs	Visitors should take and be willing to share photos of your family. This is a way to build bridges with the receiving people.
Prescription medications	Take prescription medicines in their original containers
Emergency clothing repair	Someone on the team should assemble and take a small sewing kit.
Snack food	Individuals should pack some snack food to cover the in-between meal times that can be quite unpredictable
IPods, etc.	STM missionaries should not use electronic gadgets in a way that displays their wealth to those who have much less. Their use can erect barriers to building relationships.

¹⁹ For more on the challenges inherent in medical missions, see Laura Montgomery, “Short-Term Medical Missions: Enhancing or Eroding Health,” *Missiology: An International Review*, Vol. XXI, No. 3, July 1993, pp. 333-341. Also, much helpful advice can be found in: Peggy Johnson (ed.), *Health Care Ministries: Short-term Trip Manual*, Springfield, MO: HealthCare Ministries 2005 (revised).

Packing	In packing, take only what you need. Your receiver host will be able to provide helpful advice on your needs. Following on the above, pack lightly, taking a minimum amount of appropriate clothing and luggage necessary. Allow for space to bring back any gifts and personal souvenirs that are purchased in the country of destination.
Storage tips	Take some re-sealable plastic bags in different sizes. Travelers find these invaluable.
Musical instruments	Take a musical instrument if possible. Music is a natural way to cross cultures
Provisions for receiver host	Inquire if your host would like you to bring anything to him/her from the U.S. You might be surprised about the sort of items missionaries value but are not available in their host country.
Electricity/adaptors	Remember that voltage may be different. Thus, someone on the team may need to take a converter or adaptor.
Personal items	Take a washcloth, soap, and alarm clock
Luggage identification	Have all travelers use brightly colored yarn on their luggage. This will speed the retrieval of the luggage at baggage claim and other places.

How About Some Vacation Time for the Team?

Teams do not typically fundraise by announcing that the team plans to take some vacation time in some exotic area in the host country. But STM teams should seriously consider the cultural value of taking some time to see and experience different areas of the country. These are best done at the end of the STM trip and can provide an invaluable time for the team to relax, reflect, and de-brief prior to departure. These trips can enrich the overall STM experience.

With the logistical issues planned, the STM team is now ready for the in-country ministry.

Facilitator note:

Review the key ideas presented earlier in the session and in closing the session pray, if appropriate, thanking God for guiding the team in its preparations and praying that God would work out all the logistical details as planned.

Lesson 3

Understanding Poverty & the Poor

Facilitator notes:

Session purpose: To present an understanding of poverty and its implications for STM cross-cultural ministry.

Key ideas:

- Poverty is complex, being multidimensional in nature.
- Because of its nature, attempts to address poverty must be holistic.
- Those who work with the poor must avoid paternalism and creating unhealthy dependencies.
- The goal in working with the poor should be to develop long-term partnerships that build capacity that leads to greater independency.
- Those who engage in STM projects must be sensitive to the issue of ownership.

Understanding Poverty

One of the greatest challenges to ministering cross-culturally is dealing with poverty and the poor in a way that does no harm or at least minimizes the likelihood of doing harm. STM teams must be prepared to encounter the deprivations that come with poverty. Such preparation includes giving consideration to the following kinds of questions.

- What does it mean to be poor?
- What do the poor really need or want?
- Why do the poor have a low self-esteem?

Question & Dialogue



*What does it mean to be poor? And how can a STM team possibly do harm?
[Encourage dialogue and probe responses with follow-up questions.] – 15 minutes*

Participants in STM must go with a correct understanding and the right attitudes. A correct understanding of poverty and the poor must begin with Scriptural teachings. The Bible is replete with texts that demonstrate God's compassion for the poor. Following are a few examples:

- Isaiah 25:4—God is a refuge for the poor
- I Samuel 2:8—God's intention is to raise up the poor
- Proverbs 29:7—God calls for justice for the poor
- Luke 4:18-19—Jesus came to preach good news to the poor
- Psalm 41:1—One who considers the poor will be blessed
- Deuteronomy 15:7-8—We are commanded to give to the poor and not harden our hearts

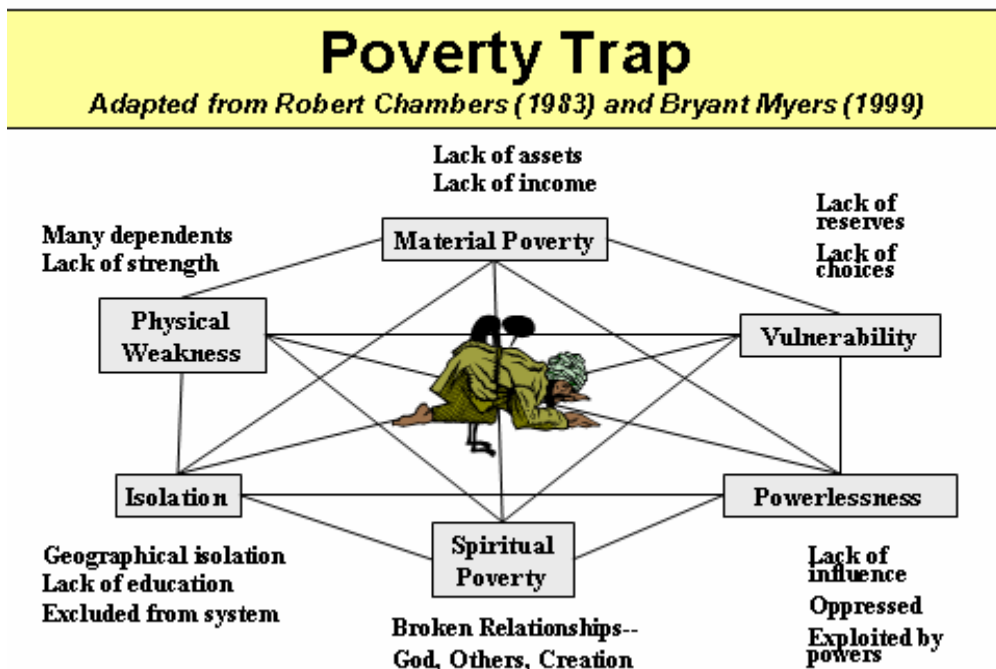
Those who participate on STM teams must reflect on the implications of the following:

- “We did not know we were poor until someone from the outside told us”
- “The poor seem so happy”
- Smiling people does not mean that they are happy or satisfied—cultural greeting

- Why do you think a poor person would sense powerlessness?
- Why do we Westerners often approach the poor with a god-like complex? [Assumptions about what the poor need.]
- How can we work to empower the poor?

Understanding poverty is helped by considering what is called the “poverty trap” that ensnares the poor.²⁰

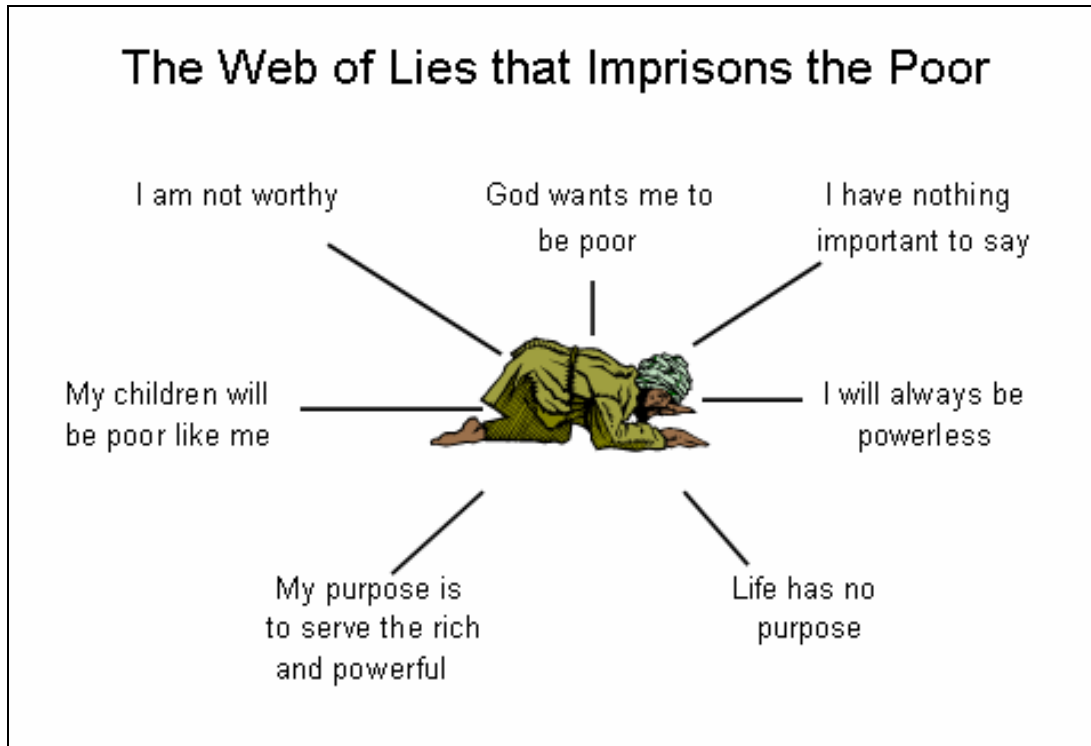
The first figure below illustrates the multidimensional aspects of poverty. This challenges our understanding that poverty is essentially material in nature or lack of money. Poverty is much more complex and has multiple dimensions—material poverty, vulnerability, powerlessness, physical weakness, isolation, and spiritual poverty.



The implication one can draw from this figure is that any attempt to deal with poverty must be “holistic” in nature. Focusing on only one dimension will be insufficient. This has great implications on the wise use of money to help the poor which will be discussed shortly.

From this entrapment, it is helpful to see how the poor view themselves. The next figure shows a web of lies in which the poor are ensnared as well.

²⁰ Adapted from Robert Chambers, *Rural Development: Putting the Last First*, London: Longman Group (1983) and Bryant Myers, *Walking with the poor*, Maryknoll: Orbis Books (1999).



This figure lends insight into why the poor suffer from a “poverty of being” and why the poor typically see themselves as powerless. Because of these self-demeaning perspectives, the poor can oftentimes be easily manipulated and treated in a paternalistic manner without opposition. But is this just?

Danger of Paternalism and Dependency

Paternalism is a constant danger in the outreach of STM teams to the poor. Paternalism can be defined as habitually providing resources or assuming tasks a person can provide or do for himself/herself. Paternalism can easily result in developing an unhealthy dependency which can then unintentionally harm individuals and relationships.

We must ask ourselves: Why are those who go on STM trips often paternalistic? While it is often unintentional, many with a poor understanding of poverty take with them a “god-complex” that is rooted in pride and/or bigotry. They view their involvement as a blessing: *“They can’t do it without my help.”* The poor, because of their “marred identity” and sense of powerlessness, defer to the STM visitors, thinking: *“I can’t do it without their help”* or *“I can get something for nothing.”* These are not views that short-term missionaries should want to reinforce or propagate.

Another issue of concern in STM is “dependency,” i.e. the state of relying on someone or something. The team member must understand that there are two kinds of dependency—healthy and unhealthy.

The Bible teaches there is a desirable dependency within the body of Christ, the metaphor being a human body that functions ideally when all the parts work together. A healthy

dependency is characterized by reciprocity and responsibility. An unhealthy dependency, on the other hand, reflects the absence of these characteristics.²¹

The problems with unhealthy dependency are as follows:

- Can lead to greater sense of powerlessness—another hand-out
- Can lead to a general passivity and lack of initiative
- Can lead to an absence of assuming responsibility
- Thus, the need to move toward more independency or interdependency

Even with the best of intentions “to help,” STM efforts have unfortunately created many unhealthy dependencies in the Majority World. And again, unfortunately, creating such dependencies is relatively easy to do. For example, there may be temptations to make an alliance with a “lone ranger,” an individual who acts alone with no accountability structure. Sending money to such individuals can result in misuse because of the lack of accountability. Another tendency is to finance pastors’ salaries and the programs of local churches in the majority world. Evidence suggests that such outside funding can hinder genuine indigenous growth. It is unwise to give resources based only on “need.” It is also unwise to underwrite 100% of a ministry’s needs.

Acts of charity can be dangerous, because givers can feel good about actions that actually accomplish very little, or even create dependency. - John Perkins

The goal, rather, should be to create healthy interdependencies where resources are shared, each partner’s perspective of God’s mission is expanded, and the unity of the Church is celebrated. The latter demonstrates to the watching world obedience to a higher law. Both partners in such a relationship will experience the joy of being a blessing.

Those who go on short-term teams should:

- Go with an attitude that they do not have all the answers
- Structure the team experience such that those who go become dependent on the local people in some manner
- Take an attitude of being a learner
- Understand that the purpose of STM is often to empower people and then get out of the way so as to avoid creating unhealthy dependency

Those who go on STM teams from the resource-rich West, such as from the U.S. and Canada, must be wise in introducing financial resources in resource-scarce environments. Such interventions:

- Can increase suspicion and competition among people in the host country, especially where certain target groups are intentionally selected to the exclusion of others
- Can allow existing resources in the receiving community to be diverted and used in destructive ways, e.g. alcoholism.
- Can distort local economic activities and reduce income and employment opportunities. These are great concerns with construction projects to be discussed in a later session.

²¹ Much of what follows in the remainder of this session augments material from Daniel Rickett, *Building Strategic Relationships: A Practical Guide to Partnering with Non-Western Missions*, Enumclaw, WI: Winepress Publishing, 2003. This is an excellent resource that is highly recommended.

- Can never be enough. While some may benefit, others will not because resources are always limited. Excluding some from receiving care by medical missions teams, for example, can create ill feelings.

The solution to the above concerns is “empowerment!” People can be empowered through well designed strategic partnerships.

“Sometimes, well meaning acts by short-termers can be a good experience for the team but a bad experience for the indigenous people.” --Steve Saint

Other Dangers in STM

One of the critical aspects of STM projects relates to the question of ownership. In other words, STM teams must seek to undertake projects in such a way that the receiving community gains a sense of ownership. A particular challenge with regard to ownership is faced with construction projects. For example, if a STM team erects a building in an indigenous community, who “owns” the building?

Another danger of STM activities is the possibility of harming relationships within the receiving community. For example, adopting policies of solidarity or targeting outreach or aid with one group over against another in the same community or geographic area can contribute to jealousy and conflict. A particular danger is damaging relationships between the local church and recipients of ministry. To minimize the likelihood of doing harm, spiritual transformation must always be a core value in the ministry.

As has been mentioned, working with the poor to achieve development objectives is a huge challenge. Those involved in STM projects that seek to achieve such goals must understand that development is both a process and product. Implicit is the question: Do I do my STM project to, for or with the receiving community? Clearly, we want to do our projects **with** the receiving community.

In order to pursue development goals with the receiving community, they must be involved in the process as participants. A high level of participation by the receiving community can result in empowerment and capacity building as mentioned earlier. Having little participation can cause much harm.

Realizing a high level of participation by the receiving community is a great challenge and requires much hard work. Short-term missionaries engaged in such work must lean against any tendency to fall into the trap of “having all the solutions.” Ideally, solutions should come from within the community. Those who want to help must give more consideration to the resources and skills that the local people possess and that can be utilized.

Question & Dialogue

Does this mean that STM teams should only go to teach and equip and “not do?”

Answer: ST missionaries should go and do those things that the indigenous people cannot do.

[Encourage dialogue and probe responses with follow-up questions.] – 15 minutes

In conclusion, there are some common mistakes of which the visitor must be aware. They are:

- Assuming you think alike

- Promising more than you can deliver
- Having no explicit shared understanding of desired results or expectations
- Underestimating cultural differences
- Taking shortcuts
- Forgetting to develop self-reliance
- Running a race with no goal in sight—need an exit strategy

Now that the foundation has been laid for a STM trip, the leader begins the process of forming a STM team.

Facilitator notes:

Review the key ideas for the session and close the session with prayer, if appropriate, for an understanding of poverty and the poor and their needs and to have God's heart for the poor. Pray for wisdom on where and how to develop long-term strategic partnerships that result in building capacity. Pray that the STM team members will go with the right attitudes, will be a blessing to the receiving community, and will be transformed as a result of the STM experience.

Lesson 4

Preparing for Cross-Cultural Ministry

Part A

Facilitator notes:

Session purpose: To provide the tools and information needed for effective cross-cultural ministry.

Key ideas:

- Thorough training for cross-cultural ministry is essential for maximum positive STM impact.
- A key for effective cross-cultural ministry is the necessity to understand cultural differences and worldviews.
- Having realistic expectations helps minimize the degree of impact of culture shock.

Additional resources can be found on the Resource CD for Lesson 4

Cross Cultural Preparations

One of the first concerns normally addressed in planning a STM trip is how to prepare for the particular host country of destination, especially its culture. Typically, groups seek to understand the culture and its customs and courtesies, the people and their lifestyles, the history of the country, its economics and politics, travel possibilities, and the specific context in which ministry will take place.²² Learning the language of the host country, even if only for simple conversational purposes, is also commonly high on the agenda of most teams.

Crossing cultural boundaries presents huge problems, even for the most experienced international traveler. Team members must be prepared for the challenges that will be faced in engaging a new culture. This is because each culture is unique. Individuals within any given culture share its values and traditions without even questioning them. And these values are oftentimes different from that to which we are accustomed. Individuals in any given culture carry their own “personal culture” that is shaped by values, life experiences, family history, education, and geographic setting. Thus, each person carries a cultural bias that impacts how different cultures are viewed and understood.

What is culture?

Culture is the sum of the distinctive characteristics of a people’s way of life.

It is critical to note that culture is not neutral. All cultures stand under the judgment of God and his word. Cultures are complex and not easily understood, posing significant challenges to STM teams that may visit a particular country for only 1-2 weeks. We must affirm, however, that culture is a gift from God. We are all shaped by our culture and carry “cultural baggage” wherever we go. Good training will help greater self-awareness of our biases as we go.

One aspect of the training is to help those who go understand more clearly the importance of worldview and the fact that people in different cultures hold different worldviews. Encountering a different worldview inevitably produces stress and confusion. Each group member will be challenged with questions that inevitably will force some reflection on a person’s worldview, i.e., how an individual understands the world. It is important to recognize that each person has a “set of eyeglasses” that is used to understand and judge reality. Such is our worldview.

²² Much of this country-specific information can be obtained at the website www.culturegrams.com.

Key Principle
Be open to mystery when crossing cultural boundaries.

The following table illustrates different worldviews. Individuals in the U.S. often stereotype individuals from other cultures who, in turn, have their own stereotype of U.S. inhabitants.

U.S. View of Majority World People	Majority World View of U.S. People
▪ Lazy	▪ Aggressive
▪ Inefficient	▪ Preoccupied with tasks
▪ Emotional	▪ Harshly pragmatic
▪ Slow and unmotivated	▪ Tense & pressured
▪ Rooted in traditions	▪ Discontented & lonely
▪ Corrupt leaders	▪ Corrupt leaders
▪ Naïve	▪ Educated
▪ Strongly interdependent	▪ Strongly individualistic
▪ Spiritual	▪ Materialistic

While such stereotyping may be common, it creates images in our minds that need to be challenged. Otherwise, our “lenses” will inevitably result in a lack of understanding, a critical spirit, poor communication, frustration, and possibly interpersonal problems. All of this will result in a cross-cultural experience that is far from our hopes and expectations of the overall vision for the mission.

There are some basic rules that must be understood in entering and engaging another culture:

1. We are all products of our cultural heritage which dictates how we understand and how we interact with others.
2. We tend to think that everyone else sees (understands) and interacts with the world the way we do.
3. Holding a different worldview strongly and without examination can lead to quick judgment.
4. The traveler must consciously withhold judgment and ask questions in an effort to understand better.
5. With understanding comes the joy of bridging cultures for the goal of ministering cross-culturally as well as simply enjoying the wonder of a new encounter.

Understanding cultural distinctive reinforces the hope for maximum STM impact. While cultural distinctives are legion, some of the most important ones are as follows:

- Language
- Attitude toward time, routine, schedule—clock vs. event time
- Attitude toward space and property
- Attitude toward use and sharing of resources
- Thought processes—linear, logical
- Role of family, kin, community—task vs. relationship
- Attitude toward work and division of labor
- Gender—different modes of speech, dress, and conduct
- Modes of learning—by observation, modeling, or instruction
- Food

- Sanitation, hygiene
- Humor and games
- Beliefs, health procedures, social conflicts, resolving disputes
- Acceptable spatial distance when in dialogue with another person
- Uncertainty avoidance

Whole Group Activity

Issue: People value time differently.

Ask participants to go to one of three different locations in the room. Ask: How long would you wait for someone to meet you at Starbucks? If 15 minutes or less, go to location 1 in the room. If up to 30 minutes, go to location 2. If 60 minutes or more, go to location 3.

Note: People in the Majority World have an attitude toward time that is different from us in the West. Clock time is much less important than event time.

Those engaging in cross-cultural ministry must seek to learn as much as possible about these distinctives in their country of destination. Obviously, having the counsel and input from others who have traveled to the same country would be a great asset in the training.

Inevitably, each of us will go into another culture with certain “blind spots.” To the extent possible, these cultural potholes should be avoided. Common blind spots include the assumption that “our way is best.” Our cultural blinders restrict our view, resulting in the potential to be judgmental. Another very common blind spot, especially by those from the U.S., is “time is money.” Another is the danger of generosity in addressing the needs of the poor.²³

First, consider “our way is best.” Taking such a bias into another culture tends to destroy any sensitivity to legitimate cultural differences and can easily result in a judgmental and critical spirit. Furthermore, such a bias can result in what has been identified as a “God-complex” characterized by the knee-jerk reaction that “this is what you need!” Underlying such a belief is the nagging question: “Why can’t they be more like us?”

Another major cultural difference surrounds our understanding of time and its importance. Our obsession with time in the U.S. has resulted in the accumulation of a large number of folk clichés and proverbs.²⁴ Some are:

- Time is money
- Making every minute count
- The sooner the better
- No time like the present
- Now or never
- Opportunity only strikes once
- Make hay while the sun shines
- He who hesitates is lost
- The early bird catches the worm
- Make it short and sweet

²³ For a helpful resource on this topic, see Stan Nussbaum, *American Cultural Baggage: How to recognize and deal with it*, Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2005. www.maryknoll.org.

²⁴ For an extensive list of these clichés and proverbs, see Stan Nussbaum, *American Cultural Baggage: How to recognize and deal with it*, Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2005. www.maryknoll.org.

These are folk beliefs that go unquestioned as generally accepted rules for living. The problem herein is that taking an obsession with time into a culture that values time differently can result in a “spirit of urgency,” an emphasis on “doing,” attitude of control, unwillingness to collaborate, impatience, a demand for measurable results, and an undue emphasis on efficiency. Such behavior and attitudes can quench the Spirit of God who may be doing something new within the individual.

It is always helpful to identify beforehand the challenges that will be faced when doing something new and different, such as when engaging in cross-cultural ministry. The biggest challenges in STM have been identified as:²⁵

- Communication
- Misunderstanding
- Personality conflict
- Poor leadership
- Bad teamwork

The good news is that proper training will help minimize these challenges. Rigorous preparation in both team-building (Session VII) and in cross-cultural ministry is, therefore, essential.

Some suggested guidelines for crossing cultural divides follow:

- Understand that it takes time to understand a different culture.
- The STM visitor should first look for common ground or similarities.
- Use caution in (over)interpreting nonverbal behavior. Such can be easily misunderstood.
- It takes longer to discern differences. So be patient.
- Beware of creating stereotypes. Cultures are different and individuals within a culture are different.

As mentioned above, one of the major challenges in cross-cultural ministry is communication. Even without a shared language, effective communication (what is both said and heard) requires much effort and care. For example, attempts to use humor as a way to communicate may not cross cultures without misunderstandings. Attempts to use self-effacement or self-aggrandizement can also backfire. Other minefields relate to approaching conflict situations, dealing with the opposite sex, relating to authority figures, and using body language—pointing, talking with hands in pocket, etc.

How we respond to and interpret cross-cultural experiences will largely determine the degree of blessing that can be derived from a STM trip. The wise STM traveler will consciously attempt to switch from passive to active in interpreting what is going on around them. The key is: awareness. As the visitor interprets, he or she can adjust the knowledge gained. The result can be a questioning of previously held assumptions. It is critical that the traveler set aside time for reflection for this purpose. The benefit of this reflection can be maximized by journaling—pre-field, on-field, and post-field. (To be discussed especially in Lesson 5.)

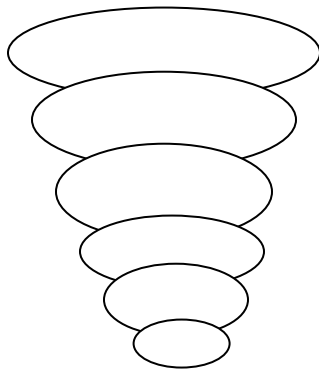
Patience and perseverance are qualities that should be sought by STM travelers. Visitors must seek the capability to “hang in there” through cultural differences. One can either adapt to the new situation or isolate oneself. A key danger is to focus solely on task and to miss the other

²⁵ See the excellent book by David Livermore, *Serving with Eyes Wide Open: Doing Short-Term Missions with Cultural Intelligence*, Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2006. www.bakerbooks.com.

blessings God has planned. As mentioned earlier in the manual, our motivation for going shapes our cross-cultural engagement more than anything else.

Even experienced travelers are often confronted with the harsh reality of “culture shock.” An experienced person in missions defines culture shock as “when you experience frustration from not knowing the rules or having the skills for adjusting to a new culture.”²⁶ Such shock is the reaction to the incongruity between your culture and one you are experiencing. Resulting typical emotions are embarrassment, disgust, fear, helplessness.

Proper training can help the STM traveler deal with the reality and inevitability of culture shock. A not uncommon paradigm for responding to culture shock and that leads to isolation can be displayed as a downward spiral:



“The more we retreat from the culture and the people
the less we learn about them;
the less we know about them
the more uncomfortable we feel among them;
the more uncomfortable we feel among them,
the more inclined we are to withdraw.”

STM team members must be equipped to deal with culture shock. The following guidelines will assist the individual to persevere and engage the new culture in order to fulfill God’s purposes for the mission:

- Be intentional in making choices to understand and adjust to the new context
- Suspend judgment as a general rule, seeking to simply identify cultural differences
- Discuss your questions and confusion with your team members, host missionary, and other expatriates. De-briefing can play a critical role here (see Session XII)
- Journal to help process your thoughts and what you are observing and learning
- Try to learn even a little of the local language
- Be an inquirer, listener, learner
- Examine your expectations—be realistic about what you hope to accomplish

Having realistic expectations helps prepare one for cultural differences while protecting the STM goer from major disappointments. Realistic expectations can help minimize the impact of culture shock and the frustrations that accompany it. One of the purposes of good preparation and training is to help shape expectations such that they mirror reality more closely in areas such as:

- Local people’s feelings about the U.S.
- Accommodations
- Food
- Personal hygiene and sanitation
- Noise
- Time

²⁶ Duane Elmer, *Cross-Cultural Connections*, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

- Transportation
- Ability to communicate

Cross-Cultural Behavior

Visitors to a new culture will be evaluated and judged by the receiving community largely by their behavior. To the extent possible, travelers need to be circumspect about their behavior in a number of areas. Some examples of cultural issues and guidelines for behavior are listed below.

Cultural Issue	Guideline
Age	Show respect for older people
Hierarchy	Show respect to leaders—listen & learn
Gender	Understand norms for relationships & greetings. Observe local practices.
Gestures	Seek to understand what is practiced and what is acceptable
Dress	Dress modestly, adapt to conventions (e.g. wearing shorts, pants)
Formality	Present yourself according to your position
Conversation Style	Take care in the use of metaphors, direct vs. indirect communication
Group Presentation	Be tactful instead of noisy & showy. Speak softly.
Values	Learn what is acceptable and what is not
Possessions	Take only necessities
Time	Go with the flow—understand event vs. time orientation in different cultures
Groups	Community may be more important than the individual
Anger	Oftentimes this should not be expressed publicly
Food	Eat unless directed otherwise and pray for God's protection
Failure	Can be perceived as a weakness, made vulnerable. Sometimes avoid confrontation.
Gift Giving	Need to know how to give and receive gifts
Money	Use with great care. Always the danger of doing harm
Promises	Beware of making promise

Lesson 5

Preparing for Cross-Cultural Ministry

Part B

Facilitator notes

Lesson purpose: Continuation of information needed for effective cross-cultural ministry.

Key ideas: An understanding of Spiritual Warfare is important to the success of mission.
The objective is to go prepared and to return prepared, thus the importance of preparing for re-entry.

Language

If your team travels to a non-English speaking country, the inability to communicate with those in the receiving community can be a huge frustration. However, steps can be taken during the preparation and training to bridge the gap somewhat. Individuals should learn conversational phrases, practicing them during the preparation process. Virtually everyone can learn 20 phrases and key vocabulary before a STM trip.

Similarly, the team as a whole should learn a song in the language of the host receiving country. Such can be performed at the host mission or in a local church. Such an exercise helps to enter the world of the receiver hosts, demonstrates respect for the people and their culture, and can serve as an important bridge in building relationships. The general rule throughout this process is: Be patient! Learning a language is difficult. The learner must practice, practice, practice.

Once on the field, the short-term missionaries must not be fearful of trying to speak the language. He or she must be willing to get out of his or her comfort zone. One must lean against any tendency to isolate oneself because of embarrassment and must be willing to laugh at oneself.

Taking Photos & Using Media

Another area where the traveler needs to be particularly sensitive is in the use of cameras and other video recorders. Photos and video clips are invaluable in documenting the experience of the STM trip and can be used effectively to report back to supporters on return. However, the STM visitor must always be mindful of people's privacy and show proper respect. This means that photos should be taken only with permission or when the context is such that you do not interfere directly with a person's privacy.

Children generally like to have their photos taken. Using digital cameras permits the sharing of the photo with the person photographed. This is especially welcome by children. As another general rule, photos should not be taken of security people or places under security protection.

It is highly recommended that STM teams plan beforehand to document their trip by taking photographs and video clips that lend themselves to the production of a DVD. Such a tool can be easily used to document the trip and communicate stories. An individual on the team should assume primary responsibility especially for video recording. That individual should be well acquainted with the use of the camera well before departing for the field.

It is critical that STM guests understand that they are outsiders and have come to learn. Such an attitude will help develop trust in the receiving community. The receiver host should play the key role in seeking permission for using cameras through established relationships. It is important that the guests be straightforward in describing their purpose for being there and their desire to take video clips and photos.

Traveling with a cultural insider is critical in navigating cultural differences and building trust. Knowing as much about the culture as possible is extremely helpful in interpreting what you are documenting. Practically speaking, those taking photos or video should move about with their equipment exposed. In other words: Be transparent in your intentions. Individuals should also be dressed appropriately. And as a general rule, consider not paying to film but do offer to buy something in exchange if necessary.

Caution: Be particularly sensitive in taking photographs of the poor. Lesson 3 addressed the fact that the poor have low self-esteem. Making them an object of a photograph can translate into “the commoditization of the poor.” Such can occur when a poor person feels “used” instead of respected as a fellow human being.

Medical and Health-Related Issues

Another major concern by travelers to the Majority World is personal health. Legion are the stories about “Montezuma’s Revenge” and other debilitating effects of consuming food and water foreign to our body’s natural resistance.

The most important thing is to be prepared. The team leader should have medical information for each team member. Such information should, of course, be held in confidentiality. Advice should be sought on recommended immunizations for travel to the country of destination at least 4 months before travel begins. Teams must plan ahead, given the timing sequence required by certain immunizations.²⁷

Team leaders should also ascertain what medical-related skills are on the team. Even with the presence of someone with medical training, teams should consider obtaining some form of medical and travel insurance.

While medicines are often available over the counter in many countries, travelers should take any necessary medications with them. Some additional basic medicines to take include Imodium or Pepto-Bismol for stomach and diarrhea problems. Motion sickness pills should be taken along if driving in mountainous regions is planned. Something for headaches should be carried along as well, especially if the team is traveling to areas of high altitudes. Someone on the team should be responsible for assembling and taking a first-aid kit.

²⁷ Recommendations about immunizations can be found at www.cdc.gov/travel. Your receiver host should also be able to provide advice.

Following are some basic health and sanitation guidelines for the time in the host country:

Drinking	Drink only bottled drinks—no tap water (even for brushing teeth). AVOID ICE.
Hydration	Always carry bottled water with you and drink a lot
Eating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eat what your host recommends and at restaurants he or she recommends ▪ In general, eat only cooked foods ▪ In general do not eat raw fruits and vegetables unless washed in a Clorox solution ▪ Do not eat off the streets (even though it smells “soooo” good) ▪ Pray for God’s protection—be willing to take some risks at the counsel of your receiver host
Personal hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wash hands frequently to minimize any bacterial contamination ▪ Carry antibacterial jells and alcohol wipes

Security & Safety Issues²⁸

As in any unfamiliar place, normal precautions should be taken to ensure safety. Your receiver host can help provide any appropriate specific guidelines. Seasoned travelers recommend the following:

- Travel in groups and where it is safe
- Keep billfolds and purses well protected
- Do not leave anything in unattended vehicles
- Take only what money you will need
- Do not go alone to an ATM to withdraw money
- Be willing to give up your money if robbed
- Be alert with backpacks—do not carry on back in crowded places like market areas
- Use only official transportation—busses, radio taxis
- Carry with you a copy of your passport after arrival in country
- Do not be hesitant to ask your host questions
- Keep with you at all times contact information—host, lodging, embassy
- **BE ALERT AT ALL TIMES**

An unfortunate necessity for STM teams is to be prepared for crisis when in the country of destination. Unforeseen events can and do occur. The well equipped team leader will have at least considered the possibility of such contingencies. Crises can occur within the team itself or they may be totally external uncontrollable forces. The major categories of crisis are as follows:

- **Political**—civil unrest that may result in travel restrictions, incarceration
- **Accidental**—illness or some medical emergency, death
- **Personal**—rape, immoral behavior
- **Natural**—floods that restrict travel, earthquakes, hurricanes, etc.

²⁸ Information about any travel advisories can be found at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html.

Preparing for Re-Entry

Planning for re-entry is another critical component of the pre-field preparation process. Beginning such planning before actual departure helps create and shape expectations. Planning for re-entry actually continues when on the field in the host country. Preparing for re-entry is undertaken in the different stages of the STM process:

- *Pre-field training*—this connects the actual training to returning
- *On-field de-briefing*—this connects the learning to returning
- *Post-field de-briefing*—this connects the training, on-field ministry, and subsequent processing of what was learned
- *Follow-through*—this is the culmination of the preparation for re-entry in that it connects the senders and receiver hosts with those who went

Planning for re-entry helps maximize the long-term benefits of STM trips. This must not be an afterthought; rather it must be planned. One of the early steps in this process is for each person on the team to conduct a personal pre-trip assessment. This is an opportunity to reflect on the motivation for going, expectations, and fears and concerns. Such can provide information that can be compared later with post-trip evaluations to gain insight into impacts, issues, concerns, and opportunities. [A sample pre-trip assessment form is included in the companion resource CD.]

Small Group Activity

Question: What kind of information should be solicited from each team member in a pre-trip assessment?

[Afterwards, a spokesperson should share the group's discoveries.] – 15 minutes

Facilitator note:

Review the key ideas identified earlier in the session and close with prayer, if appropriate, thanking God for his creative wonder expressed in the peoples of the earth and their cultures, asking for wisdom as teams are prepared and travel cross-culturally, that they will be a blessing to those who receive them and they will be increasingly transformed into the image of Christ. Ask for God's protection for those who go, that they would be kept healthy and safe. Pray the Lord would help the team members to learn the language, have realistic expectations, and would be able to adapt to the new culture of engagement.

Lesson 6 In-Country Ministry

Facilitator notes:

Session purpose: To describe the scope of in-country ministry issues that need to be anticipated in order to maximize the overall impact of the STM trip.

Key ideas:

- In-country team meetings should be held routinely for purposes of holding devotions, daily briefings and de-briefings of each day's experience.
- It is critical the short-term missionaries go with the attitude of a learner. Team members must see themselves first as ambassadors for Christ and second as a STM member.
- People must take priority over any STM project.
- Communication is more than being able to speak the language.
- Short-term visitors must take great care in making promises that cannot be kept.
- De-briefing prior to departure must be a priority for the STM team.

Once the STM team has been adequately prepared, they are ready to engage in cross cultural ministry in their host country. While in-country, it is critical that the short-term missionaries remember that their sending supporters are still engaged in their mission. Prayer supporters are still praying and communication supporters are eager to hear feedback on what is happening. Through it all, team members must remember that they are now under the authority of the receiver-host missionary or other local mission representative.

It is helpful for those who go to:

- Go expectantly
- Go trusting
- Go prayerfully
- Go alertly
- Go humbly
- Go with thanksgiving
- Go empowered
- Go with flexibility

In like manner, the guests should consciously adopt a set of attitudes that will contribute to maximizing the impact of the mission. Specifically, such attitudes should include:

- Humility
- Patience
- Brokenness
- Servant hood
- Forgiveness
- Learner

The short-term missionaries should leave behind attitudes that will detract from the success of the mission. These attitudes include a sense of:

- Ethnocentricity: seeing one's culture as superior over another;
- God-complex: the assumption that "I have what they need;"

- Superiority: elevating one's position relative to the receiving people, given one's education, wealth, experience, etc.

An attitude that will add to the success of the mission comes from St. Ambrose

“When I am at Rome I fast as the Romans do; when I am at Milan I do not fast. So likewise you, whatever church you come to, observe the custom of the place.”—St. Ambrose 337 – 397 A. D.

Some principles that should be helpful in undertaking STM are:²⁹

- God is a lot bigger than your ST mission trip
- Stop petting the poor
- Be yourself
- Seek to understand
- Question your assumptions
- Try, try again
- Actions speak louder than words
- In sharing the gospel, give up trying to see who's in and who's out
- Incorporate short-term missions as part of your seamless missional journey
- Love God and love others

In Country Arrival

Once you have arrived in your host country your team will typically complete immigration and customs forms. Some countries require these forms on departure as well. Take care to safeguard any forms left with you by the immigration authorities as these may be needed for departure.

Always be polite and courteous with the immigration officials, even though you may arrive tired and may be frustrated by the inability to understand and communicate. If traveling a great distance, many will experience and should expect “jet lag.”

The STM team can make a statement on arrival at the airport as to its purpose by gathering and offering a prayer of thanksgiving and for God's blessing during the upcoming journey. The evangelistic outreach of the team has begun.

The team will be greeted by the receiver host who will assist in escorting the team to the site of lodging. At some point, the receiver host should provide an orientation. This will be the first of a series of on-field meetings.

The most fundamental orientation relates to lodging arrangements, meals, and other on-field logistics. The orientation can serve to remind the guests about issues discussed in earlier training sessions, such as guidelines related to security and safety, food & drink, personal hygiene, communication, and money management. The initial orientation also provides an opportunity to provide more specific host country information that may be of interest.

Other critical meetings include daily briefings and devotions. All these meetings serve to reinforce the team-building process while helping to navigate the unexpected changes that characterize cross-cultural experiences. Such meetings also provide a forum for mutual

²⁹ David A. Livermore, *Serving with Eyes Wide Open*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

encouragement and support as well as teaching opportunities. It is in the context of such meetings that the STM missionaries will continue the process of adapting to their host culture.

Key Principle

The schedule for in-country ministry must include regular de-briefings and devotions which are essential to maximize long-term impact.

Daily briefings are also essential tools for ensuring an orderly flow of activities. These meetings provide a forum to discuss any particular issues and concerns, the schedule and logistics for the day, project site orientation, the plan for the next day and, of course, a time of prayer for God's protection and blessing.

Another critical component of on-field ministry is the daily de-briefing. De-briefings are also held post-field (to be discussed in Session XIII). These de-briefings are central to ensuring maximum long-term positive impact on all participants and must be faithfully scheduled. These de-briefings are so important because of the opportunity they afford for STM team members to process their ongoing experience and to grow spiritually. Consider inviting the host-receiver to participate in these meetings.

Daily on-field de-briefings at the end of the day should seek to allow sufficient time for each member to reflect on the following kinds of questions:

- What really touched me today?
- What am I learning about God (and Satan)?
- What am I learning about God's mission in reconciling all things to himself?
- What am I learning about other people and cultures?
- What am I learning about myself?

It is essential that each team member be given the opportunity to share his or her observations, questions, and thoughts. Not each comment needs to be evaluated or responded to by another team member, much less the team leader. The role of the team leader is to seek to draw out those who may need a little prodding or encouragement to share. This should be a relaxed time, permitting the Spirit of God to move and work in the hearts and minds of all. On completion, allow a time of conversational prayer, encouraging members to pray for one another.

Daily devotions should also be scheduled. These help ensure that the focus of the STM trip remains on God and his purposes and not on the team. It is a time of community worship as well as spiritual growth. Worship must be a priority for the STM team. Such worship can help break down strongholds in individual's lives as well as in the receiving community where the ministry is taking place. If possible, the team should celebrate the Eucharist. Responsibilities for leading the devotional time can be rotated among team members with assignments given beforehand by the team leader. The goal is to engage actively all team members in the devotional time. Some devotional materials are included in the companion resource CD.

Journaling

Journaling has long been hailed as an important tool for spiritual formation of the believer's daily walk. The team leader should strongly encourage team members to journal. Such journaling helps the individual process the cross-cultural ministry experience and refocus spiritually. Such can foster increased faith and intimacy with God. Journaling can contribute directly to both on-field debriefings, as well as aid in the re-entry process in communicating the STM experience (to be discussed in the next session). Furthermore, an individual's journal may be a blessing to someone else along the way.

Following are some simple guidelines for journaling:

- Ask God to help you—pray
- Write for yourself/your relationship with God
- Be honest with yourself—it is your journal!
- Write in a manner that expresses who you are—it is not written for anyone else
- Be consistent yet flexible—dedicate a daily time if possible

Journaling can take many different shapes and forms, but can include descriptions of or thoughts about:

- Experiences & observations, exciting events
- Joyful things
- Frustrations and sadness, nagging questions
- New friends
- Specific people encountered along the way
- God's handiwork in others
- God's faithfulness in his promises (Ps. 143:5)
- Self evaluations—values, biases, reaffirmations

It is important to know that there is no one way to journal. Some individuals journal in a way that essentially is a diary of daily events. Others write poetry such as in the format of a Psalm to express their deepest thoughts and emotions. Others write prayers or cite a verse of Scripture that helps connect the individual with the current reality and Scriptural principles.

Key Principle

Journaling can be an extremely valuable tool to maximize the impact of STM.

Team Leader's Responsibilities in the Host Country

The challenge of being a team leader continues in the field. He or she serves as the team's liaison with the lodging host as well as with the receiver host. The leader has a responsibility to keep the team members informed about all aspects of the in-country ministry and logistics. He or she establishes schedules for devotions, activities, de-briefings. The team leader must also be wise to take the initiative to ensure that the team has sufficient "down time." On arrival, many teams are eager to hit the ground running, when in fact it would be more prudent to allow time to acclimate to the new surroundings and to get physically and emotionally recharged.

The team leader must also keep watch over the team dynamics and individuals in order to identify any issues and concerns, especially the need to resolve any conflict. The leader must

be prepared to deal with any on-field crises. Ultimately, the team members must trust in the Lord and his watchcare and provision. The leader must maintain clear communication with the receiver host in order to learn about any issues or crises that may arise and impact the mission.

Of particular concern to the leader will be the team dynamics. There are many sources of possible conflict among members. They include: misunderstandings; differences in values and/or goals; competition over resources or roles to play in the ministry; sinful attitudes and desires; stress caused by change; or simply Satan stirring the pot.

The Biblical perspective on any conflicts or other challenges must be held. See, for example, James 1:2-3:

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”

When necessary, the team leader should defer to the team covenant that each member affirmed earlier. Following are some guidelines that can help preserve team unity:

- Love above all—value differences of one another
- Grow spiritually as a group
- Don't ignore problems
- Be willing to confess to one another and ask for forgiveness—accept blame
- Be willing to forgive and accept forgiveness
- Confront one another in love
- Recognize the authority of the team leadership
- Have a servant heart to one another
- Share with one another from your heart

STM teams must be prepared to practice Biblical principles of peacemaking and conflict resolution.³⁰ Three key principles are:

- *Overlook an offense* (Proverbs 19:11)—this is a form of forgiveness and requires a deliberate decision
- *Reconciliation* (Matthew 5:23-24)—confession must sometimes come first, followed by loving correction and then forgiveness
- *Negotiation* (Philippians 2:4)—look for a settlement to satisfy legitimate needs

Culture & Ministry

Travelers will recall the earlier training that entering another culture is all about encountering differences, all day every day. Thus, the STM visitor must be prepared for culture shock. Observed values may often conflict with yours. On particular note is the challenge of encountering poverty. Such an encounter can be emotionally overwhelming for many. Many are typically confused about why things are the way they are and why some things are done the way they are. The burden of such confusion may be compounded by physical stress and exhaustion.

It is important that when the short-term missionary encounters a different culture, he or she must consciously determine to label differences as simply that—differences—rather than as

³⁰ An extremely helpful resource is *The Team Peacemaker: Dealing with Conflict on a Short-Term Mission Team*, Billings, MT: Peacemaker Ministries, 2004. www.HisPeace.org. This booklet comes with a resource CD.

“right-or-wrong.” Such an attitude helps relieve the individual from the stress of dealing with so much that is considered to be wrong and that naturally lead to negative judgments. And by doing so, interactions with the receiving community will be more open to the possibility of learning the tapestry of the culture and about God’s work in new ways. Practicing acceptance and trust will make it easier to keep fear and suspicion under control.

Observed cultural differences must not prevent the short-term missionary from engaging the host culture. To maximize the benefit of a STM trip, the visitor must consciously decide to experience the culture to the degree of fullness that is possible. Exchange insights and love with the nationals and try to expose others to what God is doing, all of this to build the kingdom of God in all its fullness.³¹

To engage the culture must be a conscious decision. Here are some recommended actions to take:

- STM teams should attend a local church service that is conducted in the native tongue. This will give insights into how others in the wider family of Christ worship.
- In general, eat the local food and avoid international chain restaurants
- Walk and observe—take time to listen and absorb
- Attend a local cultural event if possible—fiesta, folk music concert, soccer game, Saturday market, etc.
- Take a bus (but be prepared for an adventure)

In conclusion, in order to maximize the blessings of the cross-cultural experience:

- Ask lots of questions—be a learner
- Explore the work of the receiver host so that you will be able to describe it to others
- Learn about the assets and resources of the ways God has gifted the receiving community
- Be willing to serve—have a servant heart
- Be willing to confess when you have done something wrong or wronged someone
- Be slow to make judgments
- Recognize who is in charge
- Think relationships, relationships, relationships

Key Principle
People should take priority over task in cross-cultural ministry.

One of the great challenges in cross-cultural ministry is how to interact or behave in ways that are culturally appropriate and meaningful. As mentioned earlier, the visitor will largely be judged on his or her behavior. The wise short-term missionary will observe and learn as much as possible in order to adapt consciously and avoid any faux pas. The visitor must practice, practice, practice.

Key Principle
STM members should see themselves first as ambassadors for Christ and second as a STM member.

Communication will always remain a key challenge for most short-term missionaries. But it is important to remember that people communicate in ways other than using words. Means of

³¹ See *Stepping Out: A Guide to Short Term Missions* cited earlier.

communication include actions such as hugs, smiles, handshakes, gestures, games, crafts, and prayer. Even without the capability to speak the language all visitors can bridge the communication gap utilizing one of the above approaches. And we do this all the time without even thinking. The above also reinforces the importance of our behavior. Another way to communicate is through the arts. They provide creative ways to communicate—drama, puppets, dance, song, and music. Furthermore, it is quite easy to communicate with most children.

Key Principle

Communication is more than being able to speak the language.

Some STM teams adopt evangelism as their mission. Fortunately, there are many different ways to communicate and share the gospel, even for those who feel ill-equipped or shy. Sharing one's personal testimony can be very effective as a way to share the gospel. Other approaches include:

- Jesus Film which is now in over 700 languages
- Evangecube that presents the story of salvation in a visual way
- Salvation bracelets
- Wordless book that uses colors to communicate the gospel
- Tracts, books, Bibles

Only our creativity limits the possibilities. But clearly, those who share the gospel must be sensitive to individuals and their context. The evangelist must also be prepared for different reactions to the gospel message. It is always best to try to contextualize the message for each culture. For example, in Latin America, a major issue that should be addressed directly is "salvation by works." Again, however, the idea is to keep the message simple and straightforward. The translator will remove any words that do not communicate well. Your responsibility only is to be faithful and leave the results up to God. Often our evangelism is simply one of planting seeds to be nurtured later by others. In other words, individuals may not actually "pray the prayer."

The goer-guest must understand that the local people will be curious about you. Thus, take the initiative to greet them and bless the people you meet. Respect every person as being created in the image of God. If possible, plan relaxed time with the local people, especially to share a meal.

Another major challenge that relates to ministry to the poor is how to use money and gifts wisely in the STM outreach. The visitor, especially from countries like the U.S., must understand that you are perceived by the locals as having wealth and that you have likely come to share that wealth with them. Remember that the goal of the mission should be to empower people and not make them dependent or to do harm to their sense of self-esteem. Thus, great caution and wisdom must be exercised in giving money and gifts, whether people ask for such or not.

As a general rule, it is best not to give any gifts, except through any authority channels. And these should be purchased locally to augment the economy. In general, do not give to beggars or children. One reason not to carry any money with you is that you will not have to weigh the decision of whether to give or not. Children are often "used" by nationals to solicit from foreigners. Any remaining financial resources at the completion of the trip can be deposited with the receiver host or local mission for their use.

Souvenirs should be purchased in the host country and brought back home to share with your senders and supporters. Use these to set up a display at your local church that will serve as a

reminder of the partnership that has been established in another country. Consider the purchase of a substantial gift for the local church, e.g. a painting, wall hanging, or a piece of pottery.

The compassion that many STM visitors have for the poor and disenfranchised often leads to making promises that are not or cannot be met. There is the tendency to get caught up in the moment in the emotion of an outreach of mercy or a hug by a child to promise to keep in touch, to visit again, to send photos, to send money, or to have them come to the U.S. for a visit. STM missionaries should take care to make any promises and then only with great confidence that they can be fulfilled.

Key Principle

Beware of making promises to the receiving community that cannot be kept.

A visit by a STM team affords a unique opportunity to develop and nurture relationships with in-country long-term missionaries. The team should dedicate time to focus on the life and work of the missionary. This can be a great encouragement to both parties. The team should take time to learn about the ministry of their host missionary and inquire about his/her needs, including prayer. This information should be taken back to the sending church as another input to building relationships.

The team leader should invite feedback from the receiver host on the trip and how things are going. He or she should be invited to share some meals with the team. All in all, the team should seek to be a blessing to the host missionary.

De-Briefing Before Departure

Having a de-briefing before departing the country can provide a strategic opportunity to maximize the long-term impact of the STM trip on those who go. This affords a critical time for personal reflection and spiritual growth. Teams should generally involve the host-receiver if sufficient trust and confidence has been built during the visit. Such a de-briefing should be done during a relaxed “down time” at end of trip.

Some of the issues to be addressed during de-briefings include:

- Were my expectations met? How? Why not?
- How did I see God working in the lives and community of those who received/hosted us?
- What was God teaching me during this time about Himself, others, and about me?
- How has this STM trip affected my view of my culture and values?

This de-briefing is the first critical step in re-entry.

Facilitator note:

Review the key ideas presented earlier in the session and close the session with prayer, if appropriate, thanking God for the wonder of his creation and its rich diversity and the opportunity to experience different cultures. Pray that God will enable the team to be a blessing to those who receive the STM team. Pray that God will fulfill his purposes for the STM trip.

Lesson 7

Re-Entry and Follow-Through

Facilitator notes:

Session purpose: To describe the importance of returning home prepared.

Key ideas:

- Short-term missionaries must prepare for the challenges associated with re-entry.
- On return the STM team must follow-through with both senders and receivers.
- Senders and receivers also have a responsibility in the process of following-through to ensure maximum long-term STM impact.
- It is important to go prepared and return home prepared.



What is Re-Entry? Coping with life after your return home.

So what is the big deal about re-entry? The blessings of a STM trip can be weakened or even lost without up-front planning for re-entry and follow-through. The result can be a minimal impact of the STM experience.

Re-Entry & Related Issues

Planning for re-entry and actually strategically orchestrating the process affords a tremendous opportunity for short-term missionaries to:

- conduct a personal inventory—self-discovery, values clarification, life-changing decisions
- experience spiritual growth
- deal with culture shock and reverse culture shock
- obtain divine guidance for the future

STM leaders must not underestimate the significance of re-entry. A different person is returning home.



Key Principle

Re-entry is a process and is very individual. Let God work.

The degree of impact of re-entry is affected by a host of factors. Most important may be the length of time away from your home culture, the depth of the experience, openness by the individual to learning, the degree of understanding by others on returning home, and the degree of pre-field preparation for re-entry transition. Furthermore, personal approaches vary highly depending on personality, spiritual state, and home life context.

The person returning home often does so with a transformed worldview. This, in turn, can lead to a re-evaluation of formerly held cultural values. This is especially true for young people. Parents of youth who have experienced transformation during a STM experience can feel threatened by the changes that have taken place.

So what has changed? The returning short-term missionary has changed, but the rest of his or her life has not. They may see God and the rest of reality in a deeper and different way. Individuals have a different understanding of themselves. Their values may have been transformed. They see their home culture with new eyes. Essentially, their worldview has been re-configured. At a minimum, their former worldview is being questioned.

Returning STM travelers are often struck afresh about the affluence in their home culture of both individuals and perhaps their home churches. They are often struck by the materialism that consumes so many aspirations, in contrast to the rampant poverty they have just encountered. They may be struck by the self-absorption they see that characterizes many of their acquaintances who seem to lack a world awareness. This is often translated as insensitivity to concerns about poverty and suffering and those without Christ.

Returning STM travelers may find themselves “de-griefing” as well. Possible bothersome thoughts may include:

- People back home really don't seem to be all that interested in my incredible adventure.
- People really don't seem to care about how the poor are suffering. They don't care about missions.
- People are so hung up on material things and use their money so foolishly.
- I think that a lot of the people who went on the STM trip were just looking for fun.
- I do not think people on the team were really listening to what God was trying to say to them.
- I am not sure what I believe. How could a good God allow such poverty and suffering? I am so confused.

Given the above, returning short-term missionaries must beware of 2 dangers:

1. Adopting a critical and judgmental spirit
2. Adopting an attitude of spiritual superiority

These are common traps for those who have been transformed by a STM experience.

Just as individuals deal with reverse culture shock in quite different ways, they also deal with re-entry differently. Some, especially young people who may reject their home culture, tend toward isolation and alienation from their culture. Other returning STM travelers reject what they have seen during their STM experience and totally embrace their home culture afresh. A more balanced approach is to integrate the two, seeking to reconcile the dissonance.

On departure from the host country, STM members should seek to integrate the cross-cultural experience into their lives. This means acknowledging the reality of suffering losses and of those changes that have occurred or seem to be emerging. Individuals should be encouraged to allow sufficient time to grieve and process all that has happened. The pre-departure debriefing can help individuals prepare consciously by bringing some form of closure to the STM experience. This is also a time to resolve any remaining conflicts. The fruit of this effort will permit the individual to look back with good memories and move on to the next chapter of life.

The team leader must also recognize his or her need to allow the process of re-entry to play itself out. They must recognize their own need for debriefing and reentry adjustment. This is a time to sort out and deal with personal feelings through prayer, journaling, and possibly dialogue with a spiritual counselor. Leaders should be realistic and expect to experience a “low period” on return, especially as they reflect on things that went wrong or could have been done differently.

The STM team as a group can be a valuable resource for processing re-entry issues. It is important to recall that re-entry planning began in the STM preparation and training phase, continued when in the field, and continues post-field. A team member's prayer partner can also play a critical role as sounding board and counselor after returning home.

The team re-entry process should be strategic in order to maximize the overall STM impact. It is critical that the STM team meet soon after return in order to de-brief and process thoughts and feelings while they are still fresh.³² This meeting should be held within 1 month of return. It would be best if it were held in a team member's home and around a meal. A more intensive meeting should be held 2 months later to ascertain how individuals are coping and to discern how God may be working in individual lives. This is designed to be a time to encourage one other and help all to process the experience in ways that will help them communicate the experience to others.

Apart from group meetings, individuals should be encouraged to reflect on how God may be working in their hearts. This will hopefully involve a re-examination of worldview, reflection of the ministry and outreach of the local home church and some reflection on what God may be calling the individual to do or undertake. Team members may also sense the need to cultivate a compassionate heart and develop a deeper understanding of what the Bible says about missions in general or specific concerns such as injustice, oppression, and poverty.³³

Team members should begin to plan to spend time with mentors and senders. Each STM member should take time to prepare "my story" about the STM experience, including 1 minute, 5 minute, and 20 minute versions.

Follow-Through

Those who send also have some responsibilities to the STM team in re-entry. These include:

- Welcoming home the team
- Planning recognition of the team before the local parish.
- Facilitating communication about the trip, including suggesting different venues
 - Helping with post-trip evaluation and follow-through
 - Helping to follow up on any agreements or promises made with receiver host or recipient people



Key Principle

SENDERS should follow-through where there is interest and opportunity.

Senders should seize the opportunity and follow-through on re-entry as follows:

- De-brief the team leader ASAP
- Encourage and facilitate any follow through
- Identify and counsel those particularly impacted
- Present service ministry options—existing or new
- Identify those who now might have interest in hosting visiting missionaries

³² For a helpful guide for STM re-entry see Lisa Espineli Chinn, *Reentry Guide for Short-term Mission Leaders*, Orlando: Deeper Roots Publications, 1998. www.deeperroots.com.

³³ A helpful resource is *The Next Mile: Mile Post Devotional, Volume 1*, Waynesboro, GA: Authentic Books, 2005. Part of this set is a post-ministry self-paced devotional guide. www.authenticbooks.com.

- Discover any interest of those who may wish to participate in another STM trip and possibly lead or help lead a team



Key Principle

Upon Return, the message conveyed by the GOERS to their senders is: THANK YOU!

The key message that the STM team must take back to senders is: Thank You! The next most important responsibility of the team is to report back on its experience to both senders and receivers. It is important that reporting back be honest. Avoid the tendency to overstate impacts, simply because oftentimes they are largely unknown. The reporting should focus on the receivers, the reality of life in their country, what was learned, and its importance and implications.

Following are some guidelines for communicating the STM experience:

- Record stories—be creative to include sights, smells, sounds
- Be ready—casual conversations will abound
- Take the initiative—plan some opportunities
- Speak up—be bold and speak slowly and clearly
- Start strong—start with a hook, maybe a story
- Paint verbal pictures—dress the story, contextualize
- Illustrate the story—e.g. act out a conversation
- Focus on people (not programs, parks visited, or the scenic vistas photographed)
- Convey important lessons—the lesson or moral of the story
- Accentuate the positive—not the suffering, evil, materialism
- Encourage interaction—questions and dialogue
- Respect the time afforded
- Practice, practice

Reporting back to senders should be both oral and written. Team members must share orally with key supporters and other interested individuals. This can be done by individual one-on-one appointments or during a Sunday morning worship service, Sunday adult and youth education forums, and/or at Bible study or cell group meetings. Team representatives should try to arrange a presentation for the parish missions and outreach committees. A parish-wide pot-luck dinner with photos and testimonies can be a very effective way to raise missions awareness. And inevitably, team members will have unplanned (God-ordained?) encounters with individuals who are curious about the experience. So be prepared!

Written forms for reporting back include personal letters to key supporters, an insert in the Sunday bulletin, an article in church weekly, as well as the use of a more general email distribution list or a web blog.

It is critical that the STM team follow through with the receiver hosts. Any promises made must be fulfilled. The team leader should specifically follow up with the receiver host and seek feedback on what worked and what did not. Even though this question may have been raised earlier with the receiver host before departure, time may lend more insight and honesty to the exchange. It would be most helpful as well to obtain feedback via the receiver host from the receiving community about what worked and did not work. Recommendations for how to improve the overall process should be welcome by both sides. Such interaction can provide an opportunity to learn, shape future STM trips, and develop trust and relationships.



Key Principle

We need to integrate better short-term with THE RECEIVER-HOST.

The receiver host:

- must also assume some responsibility in the follow-through process;
- should endeavor to maintain contact with the team leader;
- should have invited team members while in country to have their names added to prayer or other ministry update lists;
- should pray for God's work in the hearts on those involved in the STM experience and offer to visit the sending church; and
- should also conduct his own follow-through evaluation. It should be contextualized for his or her ministry.



Key Principle

RECEIVER-HOSTS should follow through with the STM team leader to learn and explore possibilities for future partnerships.

Recall that in Session 4 a pre-trip assessment was recommended. Now is the time to conduct a post-trip evaluation that addresses the following kinds of issues:

- The thing I liked best was...
- The thing that made my STM trip most unpleasant was...
- The most significant lesson God taught me was...
- The area in my life where I saw the greatest change was...
- One story that sums up what God did through me is...
- The biggest challenge I face in returning home will be...
- The thing I'm most thankful to God for is...

Building such an information base can be very helpful in designing and conducting future STM trips. Such information will also contribute to the larger knowledge base about the overall impacts of STM.



Key Principle

STM Missionaries need to GO PREPARED & RETURN PREPARED because participation in a short-term mission is MORE than about you!

Facilitator note:

Review the key ideas presented earlier in the session and close with prayer, as appropriate, thanking God for the blessing of being part of work in mission. Pray the Lord would amplify the positive impacts of STM on all participants such that lives, churches, and communities would be transformed for the sake of his Kingdom.



PART THREE

Leader's Lesson Plans

For Training STM Teams

Lessons 1 - 7

Lesson 1
Trainer's Lesson Plan
Meeting 1

Raising Funds and Support

Approximately 3 Hours

In this lesson you begin the very important work of functioning together as a team. This lesson plan will help you develop a lesson that will educate your team members about the mission and introduce new concepts like **Fundraising** to your team.

Additional Reading can be found on the Resource CD for Lesson 1

1. Getting to Know One Another

Approximately 15 minutes

Objective: Begin to develop relationships through basic non-threatening introductions. You will incorporate this into your first lesson because your team members may be meeting one another for the first time.

Learning Sequence: Using format found on Resource CD have team members count off by 2's and ask questions of their numbered partner. Introduce partners to entire group by answering the questions.

Materials needed: Lesson 1 Resource CD
Getting to Know One Another
Index cards
Pens or pencils

2. Corporate Worship

Approximately 15 minutes

Objective: Establish a natural pattern of prayer and worship among your team members in order to model sincere prayer and worship on the mission field.

Learning Sequence: Using instruments available or voices alone sing worship songs together. Choose a team member to open and close the time with prayer.

Materials needed: Instruments
Songbooks or songs of your choice that will model your team's Christian faith to your receiver hosts on the mission field.
Musician who can also lead music on the mission field

3. Spiritual Formation

Approximately 30 minutes

Objective: Establish a pattern of studying the Bible together while exploring God's plan for mission ministry. Begin to think about what it means to become a team.

Learning Sequence: Assign Bible reading found on Bible Study 1 on Resource CD
Facilitate question and answer session using the questions within the Bible Study.

Using news print or overhead projector, assign a team member to write down the answers for future reference when compiling the team covenant in Session 4.

Materials Needed: Lesson 1 Resource CD
Lesson 1 Spiritual Formation
Bibles for each team member
Pencils and Paper

4. Knowledge Builder

Approximately 30 Minutes

Objective: Alleviate fears about fundraising by educating your team about fundraising from a Biblical perspective. Provide information about your team's fundraising strategy
Provide materials for the team members to begin their own fundraising.

Learning Sequence: Preview Session 1 in your Manual and Power Point Lesson 1.

Let your team know that fundraising is a strategic time for team building. Share with your team the five excuses for not wanting to engage in fundraising by discussing slides 2-8 your discussion will draw out different responses from each team member.

Use slides 9-11 to discuss the budget for your team. Continue working through the power point slides asking questions at regular intervals. At the end of this segment make it clear that your goal is to build up the work of your missionary host by representing Jesus to those you encounter.

Materials Needed: Lesson 1 Resource CD
Knowledge Builder
Fundraising letter
Prayer Intercessor Letter

5. Culture Learning

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Introduce team to the mission host in order for team to identify with objective for the mission.

Learning Sequence: Briefly tell the team about the mission host and let them experience their host's ministry firsthand through watching the video or hearing the profile.

Materials: *Photos of host country and profile of missionary host*

6. Language Study

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Alleviate possible fears about team members' inadequate language skills. Establish the importance of some language training and the solution to acquire that training.

Learning Sequence: If your ministry will take place in a culture where another language is spoken determine the language skills among the team by asking who is competent in that language. If further training is necessary report that a language teacher will provide very basic words and phrases beginning with your next session and continuing throughout your training sessions.

Materials Needed: *None*

7. Practical Preparation

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Develop ownership in the fund-raising process by understanding how the team budget has been calculated. Determine who may need to acquire required documentation for overseas travel.

Learning Sequence: Give your team a copy of the budget and go over each line item. Make sure everyone understands how the amount was determined; they will need to raise that amount and their fundraising success is dependent upon their understanding of the amount.

Materials Needed: Lesson 1 Resource CD
Copies of Team Budget

8. Project Preparation

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Create understanding of the project the team will implement in the field.

Learning sequence: Explain what the project is and why the host has requested that your team take on this particular project. Explain how you will carry out the project on the on the field. If a particular skill is needed, explain why and ask who can accomplish it. Make sure plenty of time is allotted for questions.

Materials needed: Whatever means you have available for example, photos, tool, Vacation Bible School program packages that will educate your team about the project.

9. Debriefing and Closing

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Educate your team about the necessity to share one another's burdens on the mission field.

Learning sequence: Bring up *Debriefing* Lesson 1 Resource CD on your projector. Uncover the Bible verse and read it to your team. Tell your team members that while the mission field is a wonderful place it is sometime a difficult place.

Read the rest of the section to them explaining that beginning today you will debrief as a team throughout the training sessions, on the mission field and on two other occasions when you return home.

Lead your team through a brief session of debriefing by simply asking them how they feel about the mission up to this point in their training.

Materials needed: Lesson 1 Resource CD
Debriefing

Closing: Close each meeting with one or two songs and a time of open prayer for each other and your ministry.

Lesson 2
Trainer's Lesson Plan
Meeting 2

Trip Logistics

Approximately 3 Hours

This gathering of your team is the time to lay the foundation for your team's ministry. You'll do this by helping them get comfortable with one another as a team, educating them about missions, and answering any questions they have about their mission.

Additional Reading can be found on the Resource CD for Lesson 2

1. Getting to Know One Another

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Continue relationship building while comparing individual values.

Learning Sequence: Using the sheet found on the Resource CD assign places in the room with the numbers 1-5. Tell your team that you are on the ground in your host country. Ask the group what "value" they place on the words or phrases as you say them. If it is a high value they should move to 5. If they place a low value on the word they would move to 1. They will learn about one another and have fun exploring their own values as they move around the room.

End the session by telling them to observe the values of their team members. These are the areas in which they need to support or draw support from their fellow team members.

Materials needed: Lesson 2 Resource CD
Getting to know one Another Instruction sheet for *What are Your Values*
Room to move around will be necessary.

2. Corporate Worship

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Ability to model sincere praise and worship times on the mission field by praying and worshipping together beforehand.

Learning Sequence: Using instruments available or voices alone sing worship songs together. Choose a team member to open and close the time with prayer.

Materials Needed: Instruments
Songbooks or songs of your choice that will model your team's Christian faith to your receiver hosts on the mission field.
Musician who can also lead music on the mission field

3. Spiritual Formation through Bible Study

Approximately 30 Minutes

Objective: Introduce God's love of all peoples
Normalize prayer time among the members of this team.

Learning Sequence:
Have everyone read a portion of Psalm 139
Lead a discussion by asking the questions on the Resource CD

Materials needed: Lesson 2 Resource CD
Spiritual Formation
Or Psalm 139 in your Bible
Questions on the Resource CD

4. Knowledge Builder

Approximately 30 Minutes

Objective: To describe the scope of logistical issues that must be carefully planned for a successful STM trip. Begin the process of obtaining necessary documentation.

Learning Sequence: Bring up Slide 1 Lesson 2 on your projection equipment.

Using the slides for information, explain to your team how the logistics are going to come together in your host country.

Check to see who needs a passport and provide information for them to obtain the passport in your area. For those who do have passports have them check to make sure their passports are valid for six months **after** the day you return home from your mission.

If your team will need Visas use www.traveldocs.com to print the Visa form and have your team members complete the information during this time. Have them address the envelopes and you mail them from the church

Materials Needed: Lesson 2 Power Point
Knowledge Builder
Visa applications, if necessary

5. Culture Learning

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Have fun with your team while you learn about the behavior of one another in a situation where the ability to control the environment is slight if not non-existent.

Learning Sequence: Facilitate the *Broken Squares* activity found on the Resource Disk.

Debrief experience by asking questions at the end of the game making sure to get feedback from each team member.

Materials: Lesson 2 Resource CD
Culture Broken Squares activity

6. Language Study

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Experience sounds and written words of a foreign language in a comfortable and humorous environment.

Learning Sequence: Invite fluent language speaker from congregation or community to teach simple greetings to the team members. With the help of the language teacher write each team member's name in the foreign language on a piece of 8 ½ by 11 paper. Practice saying the foreign names no matter how difficult it may seem.

Display the names around the training room during successive training sessions and refer to the team members by their foreign name throughout successive training sessions.

Materials needed: paper
Markers
Fluent language speaker

7. Practical Preparation

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Continue fundraising preparation and the paperwork process with the team. Explain why they are required to complete the paperwork and provide the information they need to complete it.

Learning Sequence: Report to team funds you have received from the church or other gifts. Using a PowerPoint projector or overhead open the presentation "Raising Your Support on the Resource CD. Go through the presentation and ask for questions at the end.

Lesson 3
Trainer's Lesson Plan
Meeting 2

Understanding Poverty and the Poor

Approximately 3 Hours

This gathering of your team is the time to lay the foundation for your team's ministry. You'll do this by helping them get comfortable with one another as a team, educating them about missions, and answering any questions they have about their mission.

Additional Reading can be found on the Resource CD for Lesson 3.

1. Getting to Know One Another

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Continue to develop the relationship between team members through open dialogue on the subject of poverty.

Learning Sequence: Arrange the group in a circle and ask the following questions?

- What does it mean to be poor?
- What do the poor really need or want?
- Why do the poor have a low self-esteem?

Encourage dialogue among the team by asking these questions. Let them know this session is not meant to develop answers. It is an exercise to learn from each other about today's topic.

Materials Needed: Team Leader copy of the three questions above.

2. Corporate Worship

Approximately 15 minutes

Objective: Establish a natural pattern of prayer and worship among your team members in order to model sincere prayer and worship on the mission field.

Learning Sequence: Using instruments available or voices alone sing worship songs together. Choose a team member to open and close the time with prayer.

Materials needed: Instruments and Songbooks

3. Spiritual Formation through Bible Study

Approximately 30 Minutes

Objective: Establish the reality that God does care for the poor.

Learning Sequence: Bring up the Bible verses (Lesson 3 Spiritual Preparation on your Resource CD) on your projector. Have different team members read the verses out loud to the rest of the group. If you have Bibles available you can omit the projector and ask individuals to read the verses that are found on page 66-67 of your manual.


Ask the group if this changes any previous thoughts that were discussed in the Getting to Know One Another segment? Ask why? Make it clear to the group that God does care very much for the poor and we are not to judge them.

Materials needed: Lesson 3 Resource CD
Spiritual Formation
Bibles

4. Knowledge Builder

Approximately 30 Minutes

Objective: Unpack poverty by explaining the dynamics of poverty and how a mission team with a lack of understanding of poverty can actually be harmful.

Learning sequence: Using Lesson 3 Power Point slides walk your team through this lesson. Use the  slides for brief discussions.

Materials Needed: Lesson 3 Power Point
Knowledge Builder

5. Culture Learning

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Begin to study the culture of the country in which you will be ministering.

Learning Sequence: Give each team member a copy of the Culture Gram you have ordered from using the information for Culture Grams located under Culture Learning Lesson 3 on the Resource Disk. Order individual reports online or by phone.

Go through the categories of your host culture but don't read each category. Encourage your team members to take their copy home and read each category in order to participate in future team training discussions.

Materials Needed: Lesson 3 Resource CD
Culture Grams

6. Language Study

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Experience sounds and written words of a foreign language in a comfortable and humorous environment.

Learning Sequence: Follow the lead of your language teacher. Practice saying the names of your team members in your host language. Begin to add new words and repeat the words to one another to become familiar with their sound.

Materials Needed: Name sheets developed during previous training sessions.

7. Practical Preparation

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Update team members about the status of your fundraising. Remind them of their paperwork responsibilities. Determine the Passport and Visa process for those who need them. Provide information about project

Learning Sequence: Report to team any funds you may have received from the church or other gifts. Report how the amount may have changed the budget you explained at the last training session.

Collect Waivers and check Passports. Make 5 copies of each team members' passport and keep them. You will disperse them before the team leaves. Update team members about any changes in the project or logistics.

8. Project Preparation

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Maintain cooperation among team members in the development of the project.

Learning sequence: Continue to develop the project implementation by discussing with the team the arrangements you have made with your on site coordinator.

Materials needed: Whatever means you have available for example, photos, tool, Vacation Bible School program packages that will educate your team about the project.

9. Debriefing and Closing

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Continue to develop camaraderie and trust among team members through sharing ideas, asking questions, and worshipping together.

Learning sequence Ask each team member what they think about the preparations for the mission. Take any questions they might have and answer the questions to the best of your ability. If you don't know the answer write it down on and tell them you don't know but you will find out and answer their questions at the next training sessions.

Materials needed: Paper
Markers
Music leader

Close each training session with one or two songs and a time of open prayer.

Lesson 4
Trainer's Lesson Plan
Meeting 4

Preparing for Cross Cultural Ministry Part A

Approximately 3 Hours

Because Culture is such an extensive topic it is recommended that you spread the lesson over two consecutive training sessions. As your team works through the next two lessons you will gain basic knowledge of the differences in people and therefore, culture.

Additional Reading can be found on the Resource CD for Lesson 4.

1. Getting to Know One Another

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Continue building relationships among team through interaction. Demonstrate that talking is not the only way to understand another culture.

Learning Sequence: Follow instructions for *Listen to Me* on the Lesson 4 Resource CD

Materials Needed: Lesson 4 Resource CD
Getting to Know One Another *Listen to Me*

2. Corporate Worship

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Establish a natural pattern of prayer and worship among your team members in order to model sincere prayer and worship on the mission field.

Learning Sequence: Using instruments available or voices alone sing worship songs together. Choose a team member to open and close the time with prayer.

Materials needed: Instruments
Songbooks or songs of your choice that will model your team's Christian faith to your receiver hosts on the mission field.
Musician who can also lead music on the mission field.

3. Spiritual Formation through Bible Study

Approximately 30 Minutes

Objective: Refine your team's purpose by reading scriptures that illustrate God's desire to reach out to all men. It is important for your team to understand their role in fulfilling His purpose. As missionaries who are witnesses of Jesus, your conduct as Christians is extremely important. A team covenant is very helpful in addressing boundaries and the behavior of the team.

Learning Sequence: Find the Spiritual Formation for Lesson 4 on the Resource CD. Follow the instructions making sure to have a brief discussion after each question.

Give each team member a copy of the Team Covenant. While this covenant includes some humor it addresses very important categories that your team should agree upon corporately. Use newsprint to develop your own covenant.

Type the covenant and bring copies for each team member to sign at your next meeting.

Materials Needed: Lesson 4 Resource CD
Spiritual Formation *What the Bible Says About Mission*
Spiritual Formation *Sample Team Covenant*
Spiritual Formation sheets from Lesson 1


4. Knowledge Builder

Approximately 30 Minutes

Objective: Clarify that your team's acceptance of the culture is essential if the team is to be successful in the ministry to which they have been called.

Point out that the success of the team also depends on their ability to accept the differences among themselves as individual team members and work together as a cohesive team.

Learning sequence: Using Lesson 4 Power Point slides walk your team through this lesson.

Use the  slides for brief discussions.

Materials Needed: Lesson 4 Power Point
Knowledge Builder

5. Culture Learning

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Remind your team that differences in Culture do not mean that one is better than another.

Learning Sequence:

Read the page to your team members and ask for feedback.

Materials Needed: Lesson 4 Resource CD
Culture Appreciating Cultural Differences

6. Language Study

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Experience sounds and written words of a foreign language in a comfortable and humorous environment.

Learning Sequence: Follow the lead of your language teacher. Practice saying the names of your team members in your host language as well as the new words you have learned.

Materials Needed: Practice sheets developed during previous training sessions.

7. Practical Preparation

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Update team members about the status of your fundraising. Remind them of their paperwork responsibilities. Determine the Passport and Visa process for those who need them.

Learning Sequence: Report to team any funds you may have received from the church or other gifts. Report how the amount may have changed the budget you explained at the last training session. Update team members about any changes in the project or logistics.

Materials needed: None

8. Project Preparation

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Maintain cooperation among team members in the development of the project.

Learning sequence: Continue to develop the project implementation by discussing with the team the arrangements you have made with your on site coordinator.

Materials needed: Provide any new information about your team's project.

9. Debriefing and Closing

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Continue to develop camaraderie and trust among team members through sharing ideas, asking questions, and worshipping together.

Learning sequence Ask each team member what they think of the mission. Take any questions they might have and answer the questions if you can. If not, find the answer and give it at the next meeting.

Materials needed: Newsprint
Markers

Closing: Close each training session with one or two songs and a time of open prayer.

Lesson 5
Trainer's Lesson Plan
Meeting 5

Preparing for Cross Cultural Ministry Part B

Approximately 3 Hours

This meeting is the extension of Preparing for Cross Cultural Ministry. During this lesson you will add a new dimension, *Spiritual Warfare* to your Spiritual Formation time that will add to your cultural understanding of you host country.

You will complete your cultural preparation through the discussion of in-country medical, health, and safety issues.

Additional Reading can be found on the Resource CD for Lesson 5.

1. Getting to Know One Another

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Continue building relationships among team through interaction. Demonstrate that talking is not the only way to understand another culture.

Learning Sequence: Follow instructions for *Me Speak No English* on the Lesson 5 Resource CD

Materials Needed: Lesson 5 Resource CD

Getting to Know One Another *Me Speak No English*

2. Corporate Worship

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Establish a natural pattern of prayer and worship among your team members in order to model sincere prayer and worship on the mission field.

Learning Sequence: Using instruments available or voices alone sing worship songs together. Choose a team member to open and close the time with prayer.

Materials Needed: Instruments

Songbooks or songs of your choice that will model your team's Christian faith to your receiver hosts on the mission field. Musician who can also lead music on the mission field.

3. Spiritual Formation Through Bible Study

Approximately 30 Minutes

Objective: Establish understanding of spiritual warfare and the damage it can do to thwart the success of the team. Present the material in a manner that won't threaten new Christians but will strengthen their appreciation of the power of God.

Learning Sequence: Using the Spiritual Preparation for Lesson 5 Power Point on the Resource CD walk through the slides asking for questions at regular intervals.

Give each team member a copy of *Spiritual Warfare* and assign verses to team members and ask them to read the verse out loud and provide a brief explanation of the meaning of the verse to the rest of the team.

Materials Needed: Lesson 5 Resource CD

Spiritual Formation *Spiritual Warfare* copies

Lesson 5 Power Point Presentation *Spiritual Warfare, What is it?*

4. Knowledge Builder

Approximately 30 Minutes

Objective: Complete Cross Cultural preparedness by adding the practical components of Language, health, medical and Safety Issues

Learning Sequence: Project the Lesson Five Power Point presentation and walk your team through the slides. Make it clear to your team that there are no exceptions regarding the instructions on the slides. Ask for questions to make sure the team understands the issues clearly.

Materials Needed: Lesson 5 Power Point Presentation

Knowledge Builder

5. Cultural Learning

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Continue to build your team's understanding that the differences in culture do not make one culture *better* than the other.

Learning Sequence: Print copies of Lesson 5 Culture *Potential Tension in Ministry* from the Resource CD for each member of the team. Assign four people to read the Potential Tension topics. Assign four different people to lead an open discussion in which they ask the questions under each Potential Tension topic. It is important that each team member participate in the open discussion as their participation in the discussion will add to their awareness of the cultural differences they will experience.

Materials Needed: Lesson 5 Resource CD.
Culture *Potential Tension in Ministry* for each team member

6. Language

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Experience sounds and written words of a foreign language in a comfortable, supportive and sometimes humorous environment.

Learning Sequence: Follow the lead of your language teacher. Continue to practice names and phrases of your host country. Add the names of communities you will encounter during your travels.

Use a map of your host country to learn the spelling and the location of the areas.

Materials Needed: Practice sheets from previous lessons
Map of your host country

7. Practical Preparation

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Continue to build a solid team by providing necessary information to the team *as a group*.

If someone has missed a meeting make it a point to contact them personally to give them any changes in your preparation.

Learning Sequence: Report to the team the balance in your budget. Collect Waivers and check Passports. Make 5 copies of each team members' passport and keep the copies. You will disperse them before the team leaves. Give each team member a copy of the Team Covenant you developed and have them sign it. You keep the signed copies. Update team members about any changes in the project or logistics.

Materials needed: *Team Covenant* you developed at your last meeting.

8. Project Preparation

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Maintain cooperation among team members in the development of the project.

Learning sequence: Continue to develop the project implementation by discussing with the team the arrangements you have made with your on site coordinator.

Materials needed: Provide any new information about your team's project.

9. Debriefing and Closing

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Continue to develop camaraderie and trust among team members through sharing ideas, asking questions, and worshipping together.

Learning sequence: Go around the room and ask for feedback regarding the training, potential worries about on-the-field ministry, specific questions or concerns regarding on-the-field ministry.

Materials needed: None

Closing: Close each training session with one or two songs and a time of open prayer.

Lesson 6
Trainer's Lesson Plan
Meeting 6

In Country Ministry

Approximately 3 Hours

Attentiveness to the personalities who make up your team and careful planning is an integral part of every short-term mission. This lesson will provide the tools your team will need for a successful and personally gratifying missionary experience.

Additional Reading can be found on the Resource CD for Lesson 6.

1. Getting to Know One Another

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Continue to appreciate the different personalities and values within your group as you individually reflect on cross cultural principles.

Learning Sequence: Provide each team member with a copy of *Ten Commandments for Mission Trip Participants* or project the Commandments on your projector.

Assign one Commandment to each team member or one to two different team members depending on the size of your team. Have them read the Commandment out loud and give their own explanation of the Commandment to the rest of the team.

Materials Needed: Lesson 6 Resource CD:
Getting to Know One Another.

2. Corporate Worship

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Establish a natural pattern of prayer and worship among your team members in order to model sincere prayer and worship on the mission field.

Learning Sequence: Using instruments available or voices alone sing worship songs together. Choose a team member to open and close the time with prayer.

Materials needed: Instruments
Songbooks

3. Spiritual Formation

Approximately 30 Minutes

Objective: Reiterate that God prefers no nation over another. He wants us all to come to Him. When your team is on the mission field they need to know that they and the people in their host country are equal in the eyes of Christ. No culture is better than another.

Learning Sequence: Distribute copies to each team member or project Lesson 6 Spiritual Formation. Begin by reminding your team that you are ambassadors of Jesus and as ambassadors your goal is to leave them wanting more of Him.

Lead your team through Lesson 6 Spiritual Formation by asking for readers or reading the lesson to them. Make sure you stop and ask for comments along the way. The key verse is 1 John 2:2 "*He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.*"

Materials Needed: Lesson 6 Resource CD
Spiritual Formation

4. Knowledge Builder

Approximately 30 Minutes

Objective: Prepare your team for their in-country ministry by describing the team activities and behavior that will be expected of them as missionaries.

Learning Sequence: Project Lesson 6 Resource CD Knowledge Builder and work through the slides. Give each team member a copy of *Gender Issues*. Read through the document ask for questions and remind your team that their will be no exceptions regarding behavior.

Materials Needed: Lesson 6 Power Point
Knowledge Builder
Lesson 6 Resource CD
Knowledge Builder

5. Cultural Learning

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Experience the confusion, frustration and humor of cross cultural communication as you play the game of Mau.

Learning Sequence: Follow the instructions for *Mau* found in Resource CD Lesson 6 Culture.

Materials Needed: Four to six decks of regular playing cards depending on the size of your group.
Lesson 6 Resource CD:
Culture

6. Language

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Experience sounds and written words of a foreign language in a comfortable and humorous environment.

Learning Sequence: Follow the lead of your language teacher. Continue to introduce new words and phrases. Use them to question and answer one another in a group setting.

Materials Needed: Paper, markers

7. Practical Preparation

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Keep building your team by providing necessary information to the team *as a group*.

If someone has missed a meeting, make it a point to contact them personally to give them any changes in the team's preparation.

Learning Sequence: Report to the team your fundraising status.

- Update team members about any changes in the project or logistics.
- Provide copies of waivers that may be necessary for your receiving host.
- Collect Waivers, Guardianship Forms, team covenants

Materials needed: None

8. Project Preparation

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Maintain cooperation among team members in the development of the project.

Learning sequence: Continue to develop the project implementation by discussing with the team the arrangements you have made with your on site coordinator.

Materials needed: Provide any new information about your team's project

9. Debriefing and Closing

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Continue to develop camaraderie and trust among team members through sharing ideas, asking questions, and worshipping together.

Learning sequence: Continue to ask each team members what they think about the training, project, cross cultural service. Allow each team member time to discuss their thoughts based on the guidelines for *Debriefing* found in Lesson 1.

Materials needed: None

Closing: Close each session with songs and prayer for each other and your mission.

Lesson 7
Trainer's Lesson Plan
Meeting 7

Re Entry and Follow Through

Approximately 3 Hours

Additional Resources can be found on the Resource CD for Lesson 7.

1. Getting to Know One Another

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Initiate the reality that this short-term mission is going to change the lives of the team members. Gain a deeper insight into the relationships that have developed among team members as they share their feelings about this reality with their fellow team members.

Learning Sequence: Using the instruction sheet found on the Resource CD lead your team through the questions. Allow sufficient time for discussion because re-entry is difficult for some people and the more preparation they have now the easier it will be later.

Materials Needed: Lesson 7 Resource CD:
Getting to Know One Another

2. Corporate Worship

Approximately 10 Minutes

Objective: Continue to pray and worship together as a team ready to do the Lord's work.

Learning Sequence: Using instruments available or voices alone sing worship songs together. Choose a team member to open and close the time with prayer.

Materials needed: Instruments and voices

3. Spiritual Formation Through Bible Study

Approximately 30 Minutes

Objective: Establish an attitude of humbleness and reaffirm the responsibility of the team to draw people to Jesus through their attitude on the field. They also have a responsibility to advocate for missions once they have returned home.

Leaning Sequence: Use the *Spiritual Preparation* lesson found on the Lesson 7 Resource CD. Read the Bible verses and questions to the team yourself or ask other team members to read the verses. Ask the questions out loud to the members of your team. Give you team members time to think about each question. When you go back and reread question # 1, the ideal response is for your team to understand that they can't possibly expect people to give their lives to Jesus unless they have given Him their own life.

Materials Needed: Lesson 7 Resource CD:
Spiritual Preparation.

4. Knowledge Builder

Approximately 30 Minutes

Objective: Continue to prepare your team for the personal transformation that is likely to occur when they reenter their host county. Remind them of their responsibility in reentry regarding themselves, their fellow team members and their host receiver.

Learning Sequence: Guide your team through the Power Point Lesson. Allow time for questions and comments about the information.

Materials Needed: Lesson 7 Power Point
Knowledge Builder

5. Cultural Learning

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Continue to prepare your team for the cultural dissonance they may experience on the field and when they return home.

Learning Sequence: Follow the instructions for the game *Words and More*. In your discussion time address the differences between the host culture and your own. Once these differences are revealed discuss how you are going to handle them in your host culture. One key point is to remind your team that you are going to be guests, not culture changers!

Ask your team if any of the American Values may seem different to them when they return home.

Materials needed: Lesson 7 Resource CD
Culture

6. Language

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Enjoy the progress you have made as a team in learning some words in a foreign language.

Learning Sequence: Follow the lead of your language teacher. Practice addressing each other with the names you will have in your host country. Use all of the new words you have learned by asking question of one another.

Materials Needed: Sheets developed during previous training sessions for use as references to new words.

7. Practical Preparation

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Keep building your team by providing necessary information to the team as a group. Make sure each team member is clear about their individual responsibilities within the team and on the mission field.

Learning Sequence: Report to team the account balance and how funds will be distributed on the field to the missionary for food, housing, and for your in-country transportation. Give your team any final directions or meeting times for your impending departure. Collect waivers, health information, copies of passports and visas if necessary, guardianship forms

Materials needed: None

8. Project Preparation

Approximately 15 Minutes

Objective: Maintain cooperation among team members in the development of the project.

Learning sequence: Update team members about any changes in the project or logistics particularly the final decisions made by your host or missionary.

Materials needed: Provide any new information about your team's project.

9. Debriefing and Closing

Approximately 20 Minutes

Objective: Continue to develop camaraderie and trust among team members through sharing ideas, asking questions, and worshipping together.

Learning sequence: Ask for thoughts or questions. This is your final training session so make sure everyone is comfortable with the mission/ministry of the team.

Materials needed: None

Closing: Close each training session with two songs and a time of open prayer.



Diocese of Central Florida
Mission Commission
Short-term Mission
Opportunities



**Diocese of Central Florida
Mission Commission
Short-term Mission Opportunities**

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**Diocese of Central Florida
Mission Commission
Short-term Mission Opportunities**

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**Diocese of Central Florida
Mission Commission
Short-term Mission Opportunities**

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Christian Disaster Response

Mission Statement

In the event of a domestic disaster, Christian Disaster Response will respond in cooperation with the Salvation Army and other National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster ([NOVAD](#)) agencies. CDR provides disaster assistance through local churches and agencies in the affected area at the request of churches.

CDR will respond with the following programs:*

- Initial on-site disaster assessment program.
- Emergency food service—fixed-site kitchen/feeding and mobile food service.
- In-kind donations of disaster recovery supplies.
- Advocacy for disaster victims (elderly—poor—minorities).
- Home repair or rebuilding.

Policy Statement

- It is the policy of Christian Disaster Response to assist victims of natural and man-made disasters in the USA and in other countries by invitation. CDR will give assistance to disaster victims regardless of race, color or creed.
- We will not allow promotion to dictate our program. We will not say, "Here is where the need is, but there is more promotable."
- We will not settle for the appearance of doing something—rather than actually doing it.
- We will not be content merely to ship commodities overseas; we will make sure they reach the place of maximum need and optimum service opportunity.
- We will not ignore the host government, especially at the place of targeted need.
- We will not wait too long to help—whatever the reason. ("But there's a war over there and they're shooting real bullets!")
- We will not ship anything/everything just to swell the in-kind totals. "Hungry people will eat anything! Bent nails are OK!" NO WAY! Only the best that we can send is good enough.
- Our love should not be just words and talk; our love must be true for mankind that shows itself in our actions.

Contact Information

Address: Christian Disaster Response
Dr. Ron Patterson, Executive Director
PO Box 3339
Winter Haven, FL 33885-3339

Phone: (863)967-4357

Email: ronpatterson@cdrespinse.org

Web site: www.cdresponse.org



Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community

Why take the CERT training?

Local government prepares for everyday emergencies. However, there can be an emergency or disaster that can overwhelm the community's immediate response capability. While adjacent jurisdictions, State and Federal resources can activate to help, there may be a delay for them getting to those who need them. The primary reason for CERT training is to give people the decision-making, organizational, and practical skills to offer immediate assistance to family members, neighbors, and associates while waiting for help. While people will respond to others in need without the training, the goal of the CERT program is to help people do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.

A success story about CERTs comes from events during the wildfires in Florida. The Edgewater CERT helped emergency management and the fire department personnel by assisting with evacuation; handling donations; preparing food for firefighters; and answering the phone while the professionals were fighting the fire. This is a great example of CERT members and response personnel working together for the benefit of the community.

Natural for the training are neighborhood watch, community organizations, communities of faith, school staff, workplace employees, scouting organization and other groups that come together regularly for a common purpose. CERT skills are useful in disaster and everyday life events. **Regardless of your choice of mission work: CERT Training is beneficial to all volunteers everywhere.**

Contact Information:

Web site: www.citizencorps.gov/cert

Regional - Clearinghouse

CFLChristians™

CFLChristians is a website with multiple listings of Charities and Service Organizations within the Central Florida area. Each partner listing has it's own webpage and mission, vision, volunteering opportunities and contact information

Web site: www.entner.com/cflchristians/charities.htm.

Regional - Clearinghouse



About Us:

1-800-Volunteer.org is a national database of volunteer opportunities powered by a volunteer management system for non-profits. Search today to find a place to volunteer or help in your local community.

Want to make a difference in your community and in people's lives? We make it easy to learn how you can get involved in the issues most important to you. No matter how busy you are, there's an opportunity that's right for you. We're here to help you find it.

1-800-Volunteer.org makes it easier than ever to find the volunteering opportunity that's best suited to your interests, skills, and availability. It takes just minutes to find a great volunteer opportunity.

Once you find an opportunity, you simply create an account, select your availability, and click "express interest". The organization running the volunteer opportunity will then get back to you with additional details.

Volunteering: it's a great way to give back to your community and reach out to people in need.

Web site: 1-800-Volunteer.org



Regional

Christian Service Center

Daily Bread: Serving Orlando, and Ocoee, Daily Bread provides the homeless and hungry of our community a nourishing meal throughout the year. Clothing, legal aid, and counseling are also available on-site to meet emergency needs. Local churches, restaurants, grocers, hotels, and bakeries provide the food and paper products necessary to feed up to 500 individuals each day at our three locations.

Family & Emergency Services: With offices in Orlando, Ocoee, and Winter Park, this emergency assistance program continues to be a resource for those seeking short term assistance with groceries, rent and utilities, transportation, clothing, and referrals to other social service agencies.

Fresh Start: A residential training and rehabilitation program for employable males, Fresh Start provides an opportunity for those men wanting to put their lives back together. The program uses "tough love" principles to encourage a transition from a life of dependency to independence. GED and vocational courses are offered to the clients in addition to daily counseling and Bible study.

Thrift Stores: Donated household goods and clean "useable" clothing are given to clients of Daily Bread, Family & Emergency Services, and Fresh Start at the Bargain Shop. Surplus is made available to the public who pay a nominal price for their selection. The Unique Boutique is the Center's downstairs specialty shop which offers designer and better clothing at affordable prices.

Hotel Ministry: Since 1974, Hotel Ministry has offered a Sunday worship service to guests visiting Walt Disney World. Volunteer clergy conduct the weekly inter-denominational services at Disney's Polynesian Resort.

West Orange Ministries (*Mothers Helping Mothers and Early Student Intervention Program*): Mothers Helping Mothers addresses the needs of financially challenged adults and their families by helping them gain independence through work, education, and vocation.

Contact Information

Address: Christian Service Center for Central Florida
808 W. Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32805

Phone: (407)425-2523

Email: emailus@Christianservicecenter.org

Web site: www.christianservicecenter.org

Florida Interfaith Networking in Disaster

Mission Statement:

FIND is a coalition of faith-based organizations, partnered with allied agencies and each other, which promotes networking to prepare Florida's communities for the effects of disaster, and in the aftermath, facilitates spiritual and long-term practical aid.

Strategies:

Reactive

- Assist in developing and mentoring to interfaiths in the aftermath of disaster.
- Consult and collaborate with allied agencies.
- Identify fiscal, material and human resources.
- Facilitate provision of appropriate short-term faith based activity.
- Facilitate provision of appropriate long-term faith-based activities.
- Facilitate provision of spiritual support during all phases of disaster.

Proactive

- Network with existing interfaiths before, during and after disaster.
- Encourage development of interfaiths where they do not exist.
- Mentor to interfaiths and faith-based disaster coordinators in response, relief and recovery
- Convene Florida's interfaith representatives and allied partners on a regular basis.
- Provide and promote disaster training for congregations, faith leaders and interfaiths.
- Develop funding sources for administration and aid activities before during and

Contact Information

Address: Florida Interfaith Networking in Disaster
31095 Cortez Blvd.
Brooksville, FL 34602

Phone: (352)754-6735

Email: JodyHill@findflorida.org

Web site: www.findflorida.org



Hope CommUnity Center

Our transformative Mission is to strengthen and support the working poor and immigrant communities of Central Florida through faith, advocacy, education, leadership and economic development programs.

The Hope CommUnity Center, formerly known as The Office for Farmworker Ministry, is a community-based organization founded in 1971. The Ministry has worked continually to meet the needs of the ever-growing number of farmworker and immigrant families residing in Central Florida. Over the years, the Ministry has fostered the development of many self-help, community and worker organizations to meet basic human needs.

The center is a visible sign of the Ministry's continued welcoming presence and a home for bringing together diverse people and cultures working for peace in the community and the world.

NEEDS OF FARMWORKERS

- Stable, year round employment.
- Affordable, decent housing.
- Quality childcare services.
- Quality education meeting the unique needs of farmworker children.
- After school care with homework help.
- Improved access to medical care.

Contact Information

Address: 1016 North Park Avenue
Apopka, FL 32712

Phone: (407)880-HOPE (407-880-4673)

Email: info@offm.org

Website: www.offm.org



Regional

"Kimberly's Cottage" is the Marion County Children's Advocacy Center (MCCAC), Inc. and the community's compassionate response to child abuse. The MCCAC first originated in 1996 when various agencies that serve child victims came together and signed an interagency agreement to establish a local Children's Advocacy Center. In June of 2001, construction of "Kimberly's Cottage" was completed. Kimberley's Cottage is a child and family friendly facility where professionals from the key agencies involved in investigating allegations of child abuse can come together to facilitate quality investigations while minimizing trauma to children. In addition to providing a facility designed for the comfort of the child in mind, Kimberley's Cottage provides specialized mental health therapy, advocacy, case management and multidisciplinary team coordination of child abuse cases. There are two main purposes of the Marion County Children's Advocacy Center; Facilitating Multidisciplinary Team Staffing for child victims of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence and providing crisis intervention counseling to child victims and their non-offending caregivers.

Volunteers

Kimberly's Cottage needs lots of volunteers! Contact us about volunteering from 1 hour a week to 40 hours a week! Our volunteers provide many services, from telephone answering, data entry, administrative support, greeting children, providing the children with snacks and a friendly smile to cleaning the cottage. We have a job that will match your skills and talents! Please contact us at 873-4739 for more information on how you can participate in this rewarding experience.

Contact Information

Address: 2131 SW 22nd Place
Suite 101
Ocala, FL 34474

Phone: (352)873-4739

Web site: www.kimberlyscottage.org



Orlando Union Rescue Mission

Mission Statement

Although the Orlando Union Rescue Mission provides for immediate physical needs -- including food, clothing and emergency shelter -- our programs are designed to lead the homeless to permanent independence built upon a personal relationship with Christ.

Since 1948, the Orlando Union Rescue Mission's purpose is to bring the hungry, hurting and homeless to a new life, new goals and a new future in Christ.

Volunteers can serve meals, work in the nursery, help with landscaping projects and so on... the opportunities are endless!

Volunteers are critical to the smooth operation of the Mission and in the work of ministering to Central Florida's homeless. Simply complete a Volunteer Application, tour our facility and put your talents to use! Some current volunteer needs are:

Administrative Office Receptionist

Women and Children's Division Front Desk

For more information about specific individual and group volunteer opportunities, contact our Volunteer Coordinator.

Contact Information

Address: Andrea Boatwright-Burch
1521 W. Washington Street
Orlando, FL 32805

Phone: (407)422-4855 (ext. 118)

Email: andrea.burch@ourm.org

Web site: www.ourm.org



Soul in the City

Sponsored by the Diocese of Central Florida, Soul in the City is week of ministry throughout the metro Orlando area through various outreach projects sponsored by Partnership Parishes. Students and Youth leaders from across Central Florida and beyond are invited to join a Partnership Church Project Team for a week of incredible ministry! Expose your students to God’s heart for missions and Kingdom endeavor. Soul in the City provides a unique combination of practical ministry opportunities as well as powerful teaching, worship and equipping! We hope you will participate with us!

A **Partnership Parish** is a parish that is coordinating a community outreach initiative for the neighborhoods or other creative community evangelism. Partnership churches house the teams on their property and provide breakfast and lunch for participants.

Our **Hub Church** Is All Saints Church in Winter Park, FL. This will serve as the gathering place each evening for the various project teams. All participating groups will gather each evening at All Saints for dinner, worship, teaching, prayer and fellowship.

A **Participating Group** is a team of youth and corresponding adult leadership that chooses to link up with one of the Partnership Parishes as a team member for the week. Once all the Partnership Parishes are identified, groups may choose which one they feel led to join in participation.

Contact Information

Address: Eric Moulton
 Diocese of Central Florida
 1017 E. Robinson St.
 Orlando, FL 32801

Phone: (407)423-3567

Email: emoulton@cfdiocese.org



Regional— Continuing Missions

Campus Crusade for Christ

Purpose

Helping to fulfill the Great Commission in the power of the Holy Spirit by winning people to faith in Jesus Christ, building them in their faith and sending them to win and build others; and helping the Body of Christ do evangelism and discipleship.

Vision Statement

Helping to build spiritual movements everywhere so everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus Christ

Who: The 1000+ staff at Lake Hart Headquarters help to provide the organizational support necessary for the frontline ministries.

Where: 100 Lake Hart Drive in Orlando Florida

What: Volunteer opportunities to support the staff include:

Tour guides

Reception

Data Entry

Special events

Office support

Archivists

Computer technology

Linguists

Project managers

Web/Internet design

Bookstore

Accounting

Event planners

(and more!)

Contact Information:

Mail: CCCI
Volunteer Services
100 Lake Hart Drive
Dept. 2800
Orlando, FL 32832

Phone: (407)482-6206

Email: Volunteer.HQ@ccci.org

Website: www.ccci.org

Regional— Continuing Missions



Mission Statement for Christian HELP

To prevent homelessness by helping the unemployed find jobs while providing for them materially and spiritually.

Pledge to the Children & Families of Central Florida:

Christian HELP will do everything it can to insure:

That no child in Central Florida should go to bed hungry.

That no child in Central Florida should go without Christmas.

That no family in Central Florida should be put out on the street.

That no family in Central Florida should live in darkness.

Opportunities for Involvement

Volunteer as an employment counselor, food associate (2nd shift), driver's helper, office helper, event set-up, making phone calls, job fair parking lot attendant, computer room assistant, housekeeping, or maybe something we have not thought of yet!

If you are a Pastor or Church leader, join our Church Advisory Board. We meet twice a year to discuss how we can partner better with churches.

Host a food drive to help us fill our pantry with non-perishable items. We are also able to take perishable items and would be glad to arrange pick up.

Host a Toy drive or Dove tree in the weeks before Christmas. Consider adopting a family.

Become a Christian HELP ambassador and attend outreach events and other networking events.

Contact Information

Address: Christian Help
450 Seminola Blvd.
Casselberry, FL 32707

Phone: (407)834-4022

Email: info@christianhelp.org

Web site: www.christianhelp.org



Regional— Continuing Missions

Mission

Embracing Children. Inspiring Lives.

Vision

We envision Children's Home Society of Florida as a state and national leader in providing high-quality, community-based solutions to meet the needs of individuals, families, and communities

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Monitor visits at the Family Visitation Center
- Mentor a child
- Plan holiday parties for children and their families
- Assist with general administration
- Observe and document visits between children and their birth parents
- Enter data
- Help pickup donations
- Plan and/I implement community outreach activities
- Emergency Shelter Care
- Residential Group Care

Contact Information:

Web Site: www.chsfl.org

Then go to your regional location site.

Regional— Continuing Missions



Community Services Council of Brevard

Mission

The mission of Community Services Council is to develop solutions to community problems and to promote and maintain independence and maximize the quality of life for the citizens of Brevard County, particularly the elderly and disabled adults.

Vision

The Community Services Council will be innovative, self-reliant, and respected for the quality of its services. This has a high impact on the quality of its services, which has a high impact on the welfare of its clients. The Community Services Council will be competitive, cost-effective, and an integral part of the community-based care systems of Brevard County.

Meals on Wheels

Make a difference in senior's lives. Serve the most appreciated meal. Receive more than you give. Bring smiles to homebound seniors. Be one of Brevard County's most valuable resource.

For more information or to volunteer phone 321.639.8770 or visit The Brevard Senior Nutrition Website at <http://www.mealsonwheelsofbrevard.org>

Retired Senior Volunteer Program

Recruits and places people age 55 and better in meaningful volunteer opportunities that make a positive impact on the community. For more information or to volunteer phone 321.631.2749 or visit the RSVP website at <http://www.rsvpbrevard.org>

Senior TranServe

Volunteers age 21 and better drive seniors shopping and to appointments using their own vehicles. For more information or to volunteer phone 321.639.4868 ext. 282

Sunflower House

Located at the Merritt Square Mall, the Sunflower House is a resource center for caregivers and seniors. Supportive services for caregivers include: training, referral and support groups. Seniors of all ability levels enjoy weekly classes to promote healthy aging and lifelong recreation. For more information phone 321.452-4341 or visit the Sunflower House website: <http://www.sunflowercoalition.org>

Regional— Continuing Missions



Connection Helpline

Organization Information

Mission

We strive to provide assistance by being available to share others' burdens by providing emotional support, referring to appropriate resources, if needed, and connecting them with Jesus, who is the source of all healing.

Staff

The Connection Helpline is entirely staffed by trained volunteers.

Purpose

Our goal is to communicate non-judgmentally & with empathy. To bring peace and healing to our world.

Contact Information

E-mail Address

Help@ConnectionHelpline.org

Web Address

<http://www.ConnectionHelpline.org>

Postal Address

P.O. Box 1656
Tavares, FL 32778-1656

Helpline Telephone

352-483-2800 or 407-333-9028 or 1-800-884-0585

FAX Number

321-214-0369



National

Adventures in Missions

Vision Statement

Communicating a clear picture of AIM by stating what we hope to achieve (Vision), how we interact with our partners (Positioning Statement), what guides our behavior (Values & Convictions), where we are gifted (Core Competencies), enables everyone associated with AIM to understand their roles and feel fulfilled in their call. As such, it should be studied and understood by all AIM stakeholders.

Vision

To produce 10,000 disciple-makers over the next five years.

Motto

“Follow God, Reach our world.”

Positioning Statement

To those Christians who are willing to step out of their comfort zone, Adventures in Missions is the missions organization that uses Jesus’ model of discipleship to respond to the Great Commission by following His call, putting Believers in situations where they are dependent on God so that they experience abundant life and bear fruit.

Attached:

Appalachian, Kentucky
Broken Arrow Bible Ranch, New Mexico

Contact Information:

Address: Adventures in Missions
 6000 Wellspring Trail
 Gainseville, GA 30506

Phone: (800)881-2461

Email: Email Contact form on the website

Web site: www.adventures.org



National

Appalachian, Kentucky

Adventures in Missions

Appalachian, Kentucky

Project Overview:

Our Adventure will take us to Harlan County, Kentucky, an area with a long and, at times, violent history among American coal mining towns. There are about 33,000 people who live in this economically depressed part of the Appalachian Mountains. Many of the ways to help the residents here will be obvious. But, we'll spend time in listening prayer seeking the Lord's guidance for direction on less obvious things, such as who to pray for or when a person is ready to accept Jesus as his or her savior. You don't have to travel halfway across the world to be a missionary. That's why this is such a great place to go on your first project. The friendly folks of Harlan County, Kentucky would love to have you visit them. And we believe Jesus wants us to visit them, too.

Ministry Description:

We'll spread the Good News of Jesus through children's ministry, door-to-door evangelism, prayer walks, and construction. Come with a heart ready to serve and to be obedient to God's leading!

Contact Information:

Address: Adventures in Missions
6000 Wellspring Trail
Gainseville, GA 30506

Phone: (800)881-2461

Email: Email Contact form on the website

Web site: www.adventures.org



National

Adventures in Missions

Broken Arrow Bible Ranch, New Mexico

Ministry Description:

Life is hard on the Navajo Reservation as well as the Zuni Pueblo with limited economic opportunity, poverty, broken families, suicide, alcoholism, drug addictions, diabetes and a high rate of violence and automobile accidents. Broken Arrow Bible Ranch, in the midst of this area, is a bright place in a dim world. Pray against these strongholds and ask God to use Broken Arrow to share the hope of Christ with those who so desperately need it. 20 miles south of Gallup, New Mexico, Broken Arrow Bible Ranch is bordered by the Navajo Indian Reservation and the Zuni Pueblo. Broken Arrow is a summer camp ministry where American Indian youth come to hear about Jesus and how he can make a difference in their lives. In the off-season, this beautiful location is the site of many retreats and conferences.

Ministry

Your group will come alongside the Broken Arrow staff, helping them maintain the facilities and encouraging them in their ministry. Days at Broken Arrow may be filled with painting, carpentry, youth ministry, landscaping, prayer and devotional times, learning about local culture, and more. Come prepared to spend a week in American Indian country, listening to God's voice and then stepping out in obedience.

Contact Information:

Address: Adventures in Missions
 6000 Wellspring Trail
 Gainseville, GA 30506

Phone: (800)881-2461

Email: Email Contact form on the website

Web site: www.adventures.org

Broken Arrow Bible Ranch, New Mexico



*Making Homes Warmer, Safer and Drier
Transforming Lives*

National

Appalachia Service Project

Our mission:

Appalachia Service Project is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that fosters human development by addressing the housing needs of Central Appalachia.

Statement of values:

- We believe that each person is a child of God imbued with dignity and worth.
- We accept people right where they are and just the way they are.
- We believe that affordable, safe, sanitary housing is a basic human right.
- We are committed to witness through the good quality of our work and careful stewardship of our resources.
- We believe God calls volunteers to serve others as partners in ministry and we will encourage their growth in faith as they are involved in this service.
- We believe where ASP is involved in local communities we will encourage, affirm, and support social and economic justice.

Our Work:

ASP provides vital housing services to low-income families living in Central Appalachia as well as transformational life experiences to those we serve, volunteers offering their service, congregations involved with ASP, and entire communities.

Contact Information:

Address: Appalachia Service Project, Inc.
4523 Bristol Highway
Johnson City, TN 37601

Phone: (423) 854-8800

Fax: (423) 854-9771

Website: <http://asphome.org>



National

Crow Nation, Montana

Forward Edge

Warning: Sharing your passion may result in being "ruined for the ordinary".

Mission

Forward Edge International exists to share Christ's love with those affected by poverty, disaster and sickness in the U.S. and around the world.

Vision

Forward Edge International addresses urgent needs around the world by mobilizing volunteers to help initiate and sustain long-term projects and relationships.

Who We Are

Forward Edge International is a faith-based missions and relief organization that addresses the urgent needs of afflicted people worldwide.

Crow Nation, Montana

Alcoholism, abuse and poverty are rampant in Crow Nation and the Native people are desperate for hope and healing. You will serve at a youth center, repair and improve residents' homes, host programs for Native children and pray over the reservation. North America's largest powwow draws more than 25,000 Native Americans to the Crow Reservation each year. You can share the love of Christ with Native people by helping with the festivities and completing service projects in the surrounding community.

Service Opportunities

- Find extraordinary purpose by serving others.
- ***Vulnerable Children***
- Bible teaching, testimonies, skits, arts and crafts, music
- Small construction and service projects
- Playing with kids (sports, excursions, swimming)
- Hold, hug, love abandoned babies

You can change lives by simply being available!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address Forward Edge International
15121-A NE 72nd Ave.
Vancouver, WA 98686

PHONE: (360)574-3343

EMAIL: FEI@FORWARDEDEDGE.ORG

Web site: www.forwardedge.org



National

Washington D.C.

Global Outreach

Mission/Vision Statement:

Global Outreach is established to “Take Care of Missionaries and Make Disciples!”

About Global Outreach

Global Outreach (GO) is an International Missions Sending Agency equipped with experienced missionaries around the world, who are changing lives and culture! Our proven leadership is establishing and developing new ministry points globally. This year thousands of lives will be changed because of people just like you! Our mission’s organization will take you to another level of excellence as we seek to:

- Make Disciples
- Awaken A Missions Mindset
- Build Communities Of Faith
- Create Servant Leaders

Washington D.C.

Come to the nation's capital area to share Christ with others. Minister to a wide variety of people, from the wealthy to the weak and most influential to the “down and out”. Work in some of the world’s largest homeless shelters. Washington D.C. is home to many cultures and ethnic backgrounds and now provide great opportunities to impact the lost and change the world. Serve in a soup kitchen, help in a homeless shelter, or spend quality time with inner city children. Bring joy and hope to people from many different cultures and ethnic backgrounds.

Contact Information:

Address: Global Outreach
Mick Patterson
PO Box 98
Bramwell, West Virginia 24715

Phone: (866)726-9346

Email: missiontrips@wegoglobal.com

Web site: www.wegoglobal.com



National

Anchorage, Alaska

Global Partnership Ministries

Our Purpose: Global Partnership Ministries (GPM), formerly European Partnership Ministries, was started in 1990 by Dr. Scott Kirby to help American churches respond to the newly opened doors in Eastern Europe and the former USSR. Later, we grew with additional staff and expanded our work to other parts of the world, hence the name change to Global Partnership Ministries. Our purpose is to link American churches with strategic mission opportunities. We presently have work in Romania, Moldova, Kenya and Alaska.

Our Strategy: *Partnership* has always been the key element of our ministry strategy. Our plan has been to link American local churches in personalized partnerships with other churches, ministries, or missionaries in order to assist them to reach their areas with the Gospel. We want to help American churches find personalized, strategic opportunities for missions involvement. We act as a *matchmaking facilitator* to link local churches with mission opportunities. Our most common partnerships are *sister-church* partnerships.

Ministry: Alaska has always had numerous requests from mission teams in the lower 48 for projects to do in our state. Mission teams want to come up here and experience this great land. Even so, there are only so many VBSes to help with, and even fewer churches that need building or repairs. So, many mission teams get turned away. The idea [of Grace Works] is to saturate neighborhoods that have lots of needs, especially for the Gospel, with these mission teams [from the lower 48]. The opportunities are endless. We had close to 300 volunteers come and be a part of Grace Works this summer. They have done numerous service projects -- Bible clubs, seminars, picnics, acts of service, meals and more" -- efforts that resulted in 80-plus people accepting Christ. In addition to servant evangelism to Alaskans without the hope of Jesus in their hearts and ministry opportunities for missions volunteers, Grace Works had a third objective.

Contact Information:

Address: Global Partnership Ministries
4149 Checkmate Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Phone: (907)677-0698

Email missionmatch@aol.com

Web site: www.globalpartnershipministries.com



National

Divine Acres Ranch, East Texas

Mercy Ships

Mercy Ships

Mercy Ships, following the example of Jesus, seeks to become the face of love in action, bringing hope and healing to the world forgotten poor.

Elijah's Retreat Work and Witness

Mercy Teams primary focus is the construction of family cabins, maintenance of grounds and fences, and support of Jeff and Kathie Moore.

On a peaceful little ranch in East Texas called [Divine Acres Ranch](#), a work is in progress to build a non-profit, Christ-centered retreat for families with children who suffer from autism. The retreat is called Elijah's Retreat. The vision is for 6 cabins to be built among the towering pine and oak trees overlooking pastures with horses and goats. The hope is that families will come and enjoy the quiet, peaceful setting where the children can run and play and make as much noise as they want without fear of people who don't understand them.

Contact Information:

Address: Mercy Ships
PO Box
Lindale, Texas 75771

Phone: (800)722-SHIP

Email: jobs@mercyships.org

Web site: www.mercyships.org

National Resurrection House of New Orleans

Welcome to Resurrection House...

Give yourself the most challenging and rewarding gift of your life: Volunteer at Resurrection House of New Orleans to rebuild not only *homes*...but *entire lives*.

Resurrection House has one focus: to rebuild flood-ravaged houses in New Orleans for those who don't have the resources to fix their own homes. This can only be done through the generosity of strangers throughout the country and from hard work by you, the volunteer. You will be giving the gift of your labor and expertise. But at the end of your stay, you will feel like *you've* been given the gift when people share their stories and tell you how much this means to them and their family. You will be changed by your trip to Resurrection House, and you will come back to bring your friends and family. Eighty percent of the city went underwater for two weeks, so rebuilding will be ongoing for the next five to ten years. Plan a trip this year or next year. We'll be here. And you will be glad you came.

Resurrection House is a program to rebuild homes in the New Orleans area.

Types of work:

Rebuild: This will be a rebuild project needing skilled and unskilled volunteer labor for electrical, plumbing, roofing, tiling, sheetrock, painting, carpentry, siding, and insulation work.

Team leaders: For every team, a leader needs to be identified to serve as the team leader. The team leader will be the spokesperson for the entire group.

Crew chiefs: For every work crew of 10-12 people, a crew chief will be appointed to supervise and train the group. Crew chiefs will take charge of a work crew, coordinate with the team leader and runners regarding assignments, supplies, and directions

Runners: All work crews need to designate a member to serve as a runner to help the crew chief supply the team with tools and materials. Runners will meet each morning with the team leader and crew chief to coordinate needed supplies and where to obtain them.

House person: Resurrection House will also need an all-purpose house person from each team to help in the kitchen or with general cleanup

So, for example, if a church brings 50 people on a mission trip, you will break into 4-5 work crews with a team leader, crew chiefs, runners, and a chore person for each team.

Resurrection House is looking for active workers able to do physical work. There will not be light duty work set up for those with physical disabilities or particular likes and dislikes. Please plan accordingly. Thank you.

Contact Information:

Address: Beth Gibson,
Volunteer Coordinator
P. O. Box 1807
Slidell, Louisiana 70459

Phone: (985)288-4400

Email: beth@resurrectionhouseofneworleans.org



National

Youth Groups

Reach Workcamps

BENEFITS TO THE YOUTH...

A workcamp is a life changing experience for teenagers. They learn through their week of hard work that real, hurting, loving people live behind what seems to be the immovable barriers of poverty. A teenager will no longer look on the needy with a casual glance. A workcamp enhances the teenager's faith and provides them with the opportunity to experience the empowerment that comes with making a difference. A workcamp enables the youth to create changes in their lives and in their world.

BENEFITS TO THE ADULTS...

Reach requires each youth group to bring 1 adult leader for every 5 youth. If both male and female youth are attending with your youth group, then at least one adult is required for each sex. Many adults attend the workcamp with expectations of simply being a helpful chaperone, but they usually leave with much more.

BENEFITS TO THE YOUTH GROUP...

Youth groups are becoming an important part of many teenagers' lives and Reach provides an environment suited for strengthening each youth group. It all begins with the infamous road trips to workcamp in the tightly packed 15 passenger vans. The daily devotions, program dramas, praise and worship music, and Youth Group Reflection times are all focused to build up youth groups and the youth.

REACH WORKCAMPS:

Greeley, Colorado
South Webster, Ohio
Galveston, Texas
Lockport, New York
Warrenton, Virginia
Windsor, Maine
Hurricane, West Virginia
Michigan City, Indiana

Contact Information:

Address: Reach Workcamps
PO Box 789
Galeton, CO 80622

Phone: (888)732-2492

Email: workcamps@reachwc.org

Web site: www.reachwc.org



National

The Salvation Army

Mission Statement

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

Programs that help

Rebuilding Lives

- Missing Persons
- Disaster Relief
- Prisoner Rehabilitation
- Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation
- Fight Human Trafficking

Community and Fellowship

- Youth Camps
- Kroc Centers
- Music

Comfort and Support

- Christmas Charity
- Elderly Services
- Loneliness (League of Mercy)

Radio Ministries

SA Video

Contact Information

The Salvation Army National Headquarters
615 Slaters Lane
P.O. Box 269
Alexandria, VA 22313
www.salvationist.org



National

Samaritan's Purse

MISSION STATEMENT

Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The organization serves the Church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some Volunteer Opportunities

- Rebuilding in Alaska: Replace homes destroyed by ice floes
- U.S. Disaster Relief
- Children's Programs: Provide needy children with food, clothing, shelter, medical care and education
- Emergency Relief: Provide assistance to victims of natural disaster
- Construction Projects: A variety of community construction projects
- Neighborhood Rebuild Project
- Covenant Bible Camp: Chapel construction Project in Unalakleet, Alaska

Contact Information:

Samaritan's Purse

P.O. Box 3000

Boone, NC 28607

Phone (828) 262-1980

Fax (828) 266-1056

www.samaritianspurse.org



SERVING CHANGES EVERYTHING. LEAD THE WAY.

National

World Servants

Vision

Through training and short-term mission experiences, our desire is to develop people as both servants and leaders in their everyday lives. We believe these learning opportunities will result in the transformation of individuals and communities across the globe.

Mission

To mobilize a global network of people to impact the world through Jesus Christ by responding to physical and spiritual needs.

Intergenerational Trips

World Servants intergenerational trips are designed for any person of any age, whether you are an individual, couple, family or youth, adult or mixed group. You and/or your group will have the opportunity to serve along with a diverse collaboration of people as the team itself makes up its own kind of "community of faith". There is no better way to understand the "Body of Christ" than through sharing work and life together in another culture with a variety of people. It is a time of learning, teaching and growing together as you serve a community each using your own set of skills, talents, life perspectives and experiences.

To encourage families with young children on Family and Intergenerational trips, any child who is age 8 or younger at the start date of the trip gets half off all World Servants participant fees.

Attached:

Cottonwood, Navajo Nation
Jellico, Tennessee
Chestnut Ridge, West Virginia

Contact Information:

Address: World Servants, Inc.
7130 Portland Ave
Richfield MN 55423
Phone: 800: 1-800-881-2170
Email: info@worldservants.org
Web site: www.worldservants.org



SERVING CHANGES EVERYTHING. LEAD THE WAY.

National

Cottonwood, Navajo Nation

World Servants

Cottonwood, Navajo Nation

So what will you do during your World Servants Experience? During your trip you will meet both the physical and spiritual needs of the community you journey to.

*Meet physical needs primarily through construction and renovation projects. Work may consist of the following types of construction at either individual homes or on community buildings and churches: painting, repairing siding, windows, doors, installing flooring (tile/cement), putting up drywall, framing, building decking or wheelchair ramps, constructing trusses or repairing/installing roofing. (No previous experience necessary.)

*Meet spiritual needs in a number of creative and culturally appropriate ways. We usually host a Sports Camp which incorporates children of many ages - it has many similar elements to a Kids Club. The team will also likely experience worship time with a local congregation and have the opportunity to continue building relationships through a community picnic near the end of the week.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Flexibility is the key! ALL ministry/outreach activities are customized to the communities' specific needs and are specifically determined closer to the time of the trip. Our goal is to best partner with the community we are going to serve. When discussing project specifics, please remind your groups of this!

Contact Information:

Address: World Servants, Inc.
7130 Portland Ave
Richfield MN 55423
Phone: 800: 1-800-881-2170
Email: info@worldservants.org
Web site: www.worldservants.org



SERVING CHANGES EVERYTHING. LEAD THE WAY.

National

Jellico, Tennessee

World Servants

DESCRIPTION:

World Servants partners with Good Soil Ministries in Jellico, Tennessee and has been invited to assist with a variety of projects. Through Good Soil we are able to determine which families have the most need and will best benefit from a World Servants team coming to work with them on their home. Many of the community members live in mobile home trailers that are in need of significant upkeep. Through serving a local family you will have the opportunity to build a loving relationship, learning all about their life stories. Many people in the Appalachia mountains live fairly secluded, lonely lives and are quite shy. Through developing relationships you will earn the right to share your own story and the significance of faith in Christ in your life.

In addition, to construction projects you will help with a Vacation Bible school or similar type of ministry program that reaches out to the children and youth of the community. With the help of your group and Good Soil we also plan to have Life Skill seminars for people of all ages. Different topics include: finance management, reading, bike repair, guitar lessons etc..

IMPORTANT NOTE: Flexibility is the key! ALL ministry/outreach activities are customized to the communities' specific needs and are specifically determined closer to the time of the trip. Our goal is to best partner with the community we are going to serve.

Contact Information:

Address: World Servants, Inc.
7130 Portland Ave
Richfield MN 55423
Phone: 800: 1-800-881-2170
Email: info@worldservants.org
Web site: www.worldservants.org



SERVING CHANGES EVERYTHING. LEAD THE WAY.

National

Chestnut, West Virginia

World Servants

In the hills and hollers of Appalachia, residents face many economic challenges that don't exist elsewhere in the U.S. Our teams are able bring a "hand up" and the message of Christ's love

DESCRIPTION:

This year participants will be able to serve and bring hope to many lives through a variety of ministry opportunities as they represent Jesus and administer his loving touch. Construction projects will consist of tasks such as: installing vinyl siding, windows and doors, building a handicap ramp to a home, general clean-up, roof repair, or painting. There will also be outreach projects, determined by the CLT, like Kids Club, Teen Mania Outreach, firewood chopping & distribution, home visits, or a Sports Camp.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Flexibility is the key! ALL ministry/outreach activities are customized to the communities' specific needs and are specifically determined closer to the time of the trip. Our goal is to best partner with the community we are going to serve. Please keep this in mind when discussing trip details with potential participants!

Contact Information:

Address: World Servants, Inc.
7130 Portland Ave
Richfield MN 55423
Phone: 800: 1-800-881-2170
Email: info@worldservants.org
Web site: www.worldservants.org



International

Action by Churches Together International

Action by Churches Together (ACT) International is a global alliance of churches and related agencies working to save lives and support communities in emergencies worldwide.

ACT members are Protestant and Orthodox churches and their related agencies, drawn from the membership of the [World Council of Churches](#) and [Lutheran World Federation](#)

ACT offers assistance to people caught in natural and environmental disasters, as well as in emergencies caused by war and civil conflict. Striving to reach people in need across front lines, national borders, and other ethnic, political or religious divides, ACT provides assistance irrespective of race, gender, belief, nationality, ethnic origin or political persuasion. ACT and its members are signatories to the [Code of Conduct in Disaster Relief](#) and aim to uphold the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, known as the [Sphere standards](#).

Countries ACT responds to:

Africa (See attached for Angola)
Asia & Pacific
Europe
Latin America and Caribbean
Middle East

Contact Information:

ACT International
Ecumenical Centre
150 route de Ferney
P.O. Box 2100
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 791 6033
Fax: +41 22 791 6506



International

Angola, Africa

ACT International in concert with Angolan Council of Christian Churches

ANGOLA: Relief to Flood Affected Population

ACT members plan to assist affected people by ensuring access and adequate rations of food and distribute non food items to those in need. As many aid groups assist displaced person camps as well as returnees, ACT members are working through church and local networks to identify needs and prioritize assistance for the largely 'invisible' displaced families and the increasingly vulnerable communities who are hosting them. Initial plans for assistance include support for an estimated 27,000 people, as well as water and sanitation support for significantly more families. Heavy rain has brought flooding to both sides of the Angola-Nambia border, forcing thousands to leave their homes. ACT members in county say about 25,000 people have lost their homes in the southern Angolan province of Cunene. Six regions in northern Namibia are also flooded and newspaper reports announce that the situation is worse than last year, when 65,000 people were affected. The Red Cross estimates about 125,000 people have been affected just in Cunene province by the floods. Homes and livestock have been swept away and many people have been cut off as flood water covers roads and fields. The region is inundated every year during the December to April rainy season but ACT members fear the situation is worse this year. Amid fears of cholera and malaria epidemics, the agency has been distributing mosquito nets, water purification tablets and rehydration sachets. The World Health Organization has delivered five tons of health care kits and supplies of drinking water.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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<http://www.edicisa.org.zw/FOCCISA/angola/index.html>

ACTION International Ministries

Action International Ministries (ACTION) is a global mission agency committed to sending multi-national missionaries who treasure Jesus Christ and minister His Gospel in word and deed, primarily to the poor.

Our three-prong strategy for urban ministry can be defined under three headings: evangelism, discipleship, and development.

The mission currently has over 250 missionaries (and many other team members) in 25 countries. Action's prayer target is for 221 additional missionaries to join them in the vital task of world missions, for the glory of God!

Our goal is to know God and take action! (Daniel 11:32)

What We Do: Committed to fulfilling the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ as given in Matthew 28:18-20, ACTION works in cooperation with local churches and other national organizations to reach people for Christ (evangelism), train them in Christian living (discipleship), and assist them in their physical and economic needs (development).

- **EVANGELISM**
- **DISCIPLESHIP**
- **DEVELOPMENT**
- **ACTION** also provides:
 - Teachers for missionary children
 - Assistance to national pastors
 - Bible study materials for local pastors
 - Christian books and commentaries for national pastors and Christian workers
 - Administrative services for missionaries (field and home offices)
 - Literature about ACTION ministries

We respond in countries from Austria to Zambia

(See attached mission in Manila, Philippines)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mailing Address: ACTION International Ministries

PO Box 398

Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398

www.actioninternational.org

Street Impact Team

Sharing the Gospel and Compassionate Care with Street Children and their Families

ACTION sees street children: Street children can easily become invisible to people who see them every day. But daily in Manila, Philippines more than 75,000 children live, play, work, beg and sleep on the streets. In Metro Manila, an estimated 4 million people live in squatter areas-- locations where no one else wants to live. Squatters are among the poorest. Street children and their families are even poorer.

What is ACTION doing to bring hope to street children? The ACTION Philippine Street Impact Team (SITeam) faces a seemingly overwhelming task of reaching street children for Christ. We believe there is hope--it is found in Jesus Christ. Ask Lino, Rex, Edith, Wendy, Jesse, Marlon, Larry, Banjo, Jerry and Gloria if they think it is a waste of ACTION's time and money to bring hope to street children and prostitutes. Lino and Rex are in Bible school preparing for ministry. Edith and Larry are full-time in ministry. Jesse, Banjo and Marlon are living new lives and serving in their churches while Wendy is the top student of her high school class and desires to go to Bible school after she graduates. Pray that other street children will be inspired to follow in their footsteps.

What is ACTION's vision for street children? The SITeam vision is to ignite, encourage and strengthen churches -- both in the Philippines and abroad -- so that we together will love street children and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ among them and their families, then see them lovingly nurtured in a church.

Street Impact Team Ministries Include

- * Street outreach visiting where street kids hang out and befriending them
- * Medical clinics Free medical services provided by volunteer doctors
- * Supplemental feeding Addressing the nutritional, health and spiritual needs of children and their families
- * Drop-in centers A safe place to sleep, get a meal, first-aid and love
- * Materials development Useful ministry tools such as evangelistic tracts, comic books and training materials for workers
- * Disaster relief & development Distributing relief goods when disaster hits, whether man-made or natural.

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www.actioninternational.org



Anglican Agency for Development in Honduras (AANGLIDESH)

Originally known as the Project Light on the Road, Anglicans for the Development of Honduras began operations on August 15, 2002.

Objectives:

To promote and advance the economic and social development of communities in general, with emphasis on the most deferred communities, through programs and priority projects that were executed and conceived through a technical analysis.

Mission:

To support, assist, encourage and promote processes of change within their communities to strengthen the capacity to develop actions that result in social welfare, economic, spiritual, political and cultural circumstances of the Honduran family.

Vision:

To be a stronger agency in the operational and strategic structures, to function effectively and efficiently, and to work towards ecological integrity and economic sustainability.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sandra Hernandez
Project Coordinator
Diocese of Honduras
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The Bethlehem Christmas Project

Join the Bethlehem Christmas Project (BCP) 2009 team BCP is an intellectually and spiritually challenging short-term service opportunity. All our team members are educated on the history of the Middle East and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict prior to participating. While on the ground we interact with local believers to serve children and visit the biblical sites where Jesus walked. Pray about joining us.

- **Give:** We have room for 13 individuals to join us, not only to distribute gifts but also to interact with the church in the West Bank and Israel.
- **Receive:** In addition to the hands-on work, participants will receive lectures on the Biblical and historical issues related to Israel and the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians.
- **See:** Spend time in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth visiting Biblical sites with tour guides well-versed in the rich history of the region.

Contact us to find out more about the project details. We will be happy to answer your questions and help you as you pray about your participation.

Our space is limited and we are looking for individuals with a heart for the Middle East. Looking to learn more about the Middle East because your thoughts are constantly drawn to the region and its peoples? If you believe you can make a difference in the region, then you're the type of person we're looking for!

Contact us; we will be happy to personally get in touch with you about the opportunity to join us and make a difference.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact is made only through their website:

www.bethlehemchristmasproject.info



International

COMMIT Ministries

COMMIT Ministries was established in 1991 and set apart to be used as a comprehensive resource to western churches desiring to become actively involved in completing the Great Commission. Sadly nearly 85% of all churches in the west are stagnant or losing ground. ACMC 2004.

Our growing staff is working very hard to change this unacceptable statistic! We offer our personal services to any western church. With our help, many congregations are continuing to implement a strategic, permanent, and focused strategy that strives solely to complete the Great Commission through the utilization of short-term ministry trips, short term leadership training and appropriate prerequisite training materials for their mobilization needs.

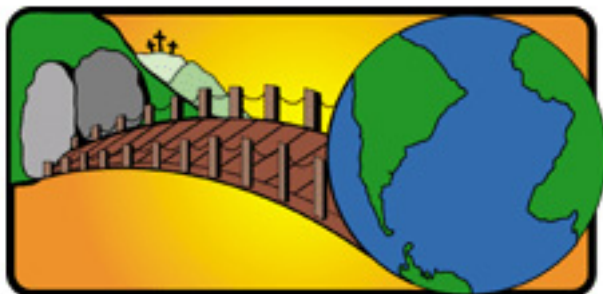
We have a genuine heart for the lost people groups in the world and for our brothers and sisters in developing countries, especially those in the 10/40 Window.

Since 1992, COMMIT has become intimately involved in meeting the spiritual and physical needs of thousands of people through various projects including church planting, pastoral training, discipleship programs, church, school, and medical clinic construction, as well as several community development projects in Mainland China, Ghana, Hawaii, Kenya, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Hawaii and Uganda. We believe that short-term ministry is the core model given to the church by Jesus Himself. Without short-term ministry and consistent involvement with Other people, the church does lose focus on the greater need and turn its focus Inward; death comes soon afterward. Short-term ministry is the vital, essential, And God-given component that serves as obvious, active proof of the caring Commitment any follower has in serving Jesus Christ.

See attached Kenya Mission information.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mailing Address: COMMIT Ministries
 P O Box 251
 Yucaipa CA 92399 Main Website:
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Email: ucommit@juno.com
Web Site: www.commit2go.com



International

Kenya, Africa

COMMIT Ministries

KENYA MAASAI WORK PROJECT & ORPHAN FARMING CENTER!

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve Jesus among some of the areas of greatest need. Most of the communities where we work have been ravaged by HIV/AIDS. The Maasai have not been that deeply impacted but are facing many community issues related to the on-going drought in their respective areas. Our team will be assisting missionaries on the ground in developing a deep water well project, training the locals to farm, helping with a fish hatchery, and assisting in building a necessary food distribution center and time permitting, a team housing center. Experience is not ever required but those who know construction, brick work, block work, plumbing, solar, concrete workers, electricians, medicine, doctors, nurses, first aid, and other related fields are encouraged to participate. We do have qualified team leaders to help you learn how to do much of the needed work. Everyone will be of value to this team, even if you only wish to hold babies, hang out with kids your own age, or build solid relationships with students! This team will also spend a day and night at a national game park for a safari to view wild animals in their natural habitat. The team will also spend one day to debrief in Nairobi before going back home.

The projects were initiated by COMMIT Ministries in Kenya who helped the Maasai create a management co-op. Most of what is done is in tandem with several local established churches and their leadership exists on the cooperative board. The local church is also benefitting by virtue of new church leadership training centers that are planned for the Bissil area in the very near future. After all, the Maasai are still considered "unreached" in some mission circles. We also work through the African Inland Church.

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International

Global Aid Network

Global Aid Network partners with existing Campus Crusade for Christ ministries, local churches, missionaries, and other agencies to help distribute compassionate aid to impoverished countries around the world. Originally started in 1991 as a humanitarian project to the former Soviet Union, **Global Aid Network** is now overseeing projects in more than 30 countries having distributed greater than \$125 million worth of aid and mobilized more than 10,000 short-term mission participants to foreign lands. The ministry focuses on the following:

- **Working with Leaders and Decision Makers:** Forming relationships with government and other leaders to build openness and trust before aid, evangelism, or development work begins.
- **Humanitarian Aid:** Shipping containers of clothes, food, and medical items to foreign countries. The “Bags of Blessing” outreach provides tangible help of sustaining food and gospel literature aid impoverished and often displaced people due to military conflict or natural disaster.
- **Emergency Disaster Response and Ongoing Relief:** Mobilizing resources when disaster strikes and ensuring that people continue to receive aid long after the crisis is over. Emergency food, water filtration systems, and medical supplies are sent immediately following a disaster followed by a process of rebuilding homes and businesses.
- **Developmental Aid:** Providing long-term economic strategies to developing countries by sharing resources and establishing micro-enterprises toward a goal of transformation of individual lives and communities. The “Water for Life” Initiative provides fresh water wells to communities in Africa and Asia. Numerous water purification systems have been provided and installed in Central America, Indonesia, and Pakistan.
- **Medical and Vision Teams:** Providing volunteer doctors and trained technicians in conducting vision testing, distributing eye glasses and medical care to those in need. Ongoing relief includes providing hospitals with medical supplies to care for the displaced and poverty-stricken.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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E-mail: info@gainusa.org

Web Site: www.gainusa.org



International

Siberia

Global Aid Network

Join Global Aid Network in Siberia

Why go?

Siberian Russia is a vast land that was formerly a place of gulag exile for political prisoners and persecuted Christians. Today, Siberia is sometimes called the “forgotten frontier,” because few missionaries or mission teams travel that far distance, by comparison to the amount of mission activity in western cities of the former Soviet Union. This territory remains a fertile field for ministry sowing and harvest where many have still never heard the message of Jesus Christ.

Global Aid Network has invested significant time and effort to develop long-term ministry outreach in Siberia. God has honored that commitment and has caused the work to be fruitful--numerous churches and missionaries have been assisted in starting many new ministry initiatives in places like orphanages, prisons, drug rehabilitation centers, hospitals, and social services centers.

The needs and opportunities are immeasurable for continued outreach with compassionate aid and the hope of Christ. **Global Aid Network** trip participants will join local churches to share the love of Christ in both word and deed.

Who can go?

This trip is great for those who have a pioneering heart in reaching others for Christ. Participants will work in teams with local ministries to deliver the gospel and gifts of aid while visiting orphanages, social services centers for needy families, hospitals, and other places strategic to the local churches' ministry goals. This trip is open to families and individuals of all ages. We anticipate having numerous college students on this summer's team.

Where will we go?

The mission team will begin in Moscow then travel on to break out cities and surrounding towns and villages for this special ministry outreach.

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International



Despite the recent turmoil in our economy, business men and women in foreign countries look to America for insight and direction when developing their business. They are eager and willing to learn from business owners and managers just like you the strategies, the methods, and the details that have made your business a success. **Global Business Success Foundation** is dedicated to bringing together Christian business leaders from the United States with like-minded individuals all over the world. Through our Business Mission Trips program, GBSF enables you to go into countries like Russia, Poland, Mexico, and Spain to mentor and disciple the Christian business community in these foreign nations. Imagine the satisfaction of sharing what you already know with an attentive and appreciative global audience. Take delight in explaining how you incorporate biblical insight and Godly wisdom into your everyday business activities. Satisfy that deep hunger in your soul to use the skills you have developed over the years for the glory of God! GBSF helps you do all this and more.

When you participate in a Business Mission Trip, not only will you help nurture and grow foreign business leaders like yourself, you will also have the opportunity to experience the culture, visit a wide variety of national monuments and historical sites, attend athletic events, enjoy fine dining, and experience local cultural events.

In addition to free time to experience the culture of the country, you will also be able to participate in one or more of the following activities:

Guest Lecture Speaker: It is a new concept for many people in foreign countries to think that Godliness and business can go together. The market place is not often viewed as a ministry opportunity. As a lecture speaker you can mentor and disciple businessmen in small groups.

Meet with local businesses: The primary teaching is based on solid Christian biblical and ethical business principles. You will be enabling Christian businesspeople to financially support their local churches, sponsor and donate to special projects, and support missionary work to other countries. Teams may visit business owners and/or managers and share one-on-one about their successes and mistakes in business

Free Enterprise: Some teams may speak to students that want to learn about the free enterprise system or just hear English spoken to improve their learning.

Sunday Services: You can be scheduled to preach or teach as guest speakers at the regular Sunday morning service or other mid-week church services. You are encouraged to teach on a Bible lesson that will motivate business people to see their importance in the Body of Christ and to become more productive in their knowledge of the Word of God as it pertains to their work place. Business prayer and study groups are formed in many of the churches in order to bring the ongoing growth that will cause success.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mailing Address: Global Business Success Foundation
2017 W. Rockport St.
Broken Arrow, OK 74012 Main Website:
Phone: 918-459-6789 Email: gshotton@gsbf.org
Web Site: <http://www.BusinessMissionTrips.org>



Just as teen mission trips are designed to utilize the skills and desires of a teenager, and medical mission trips are designed to utilize the skills and desires of someone in the medical profession, Business Mission Trips are designed to utilize the knowledge and skills of someone from the business and professional field.

Our objective is: 1) To encourage the Christian nationals in Armenia or Georgia to be more profitable and effective marketplace ministers; and 2) To introduce non-Christians in Armenia or Georgia to a God that is relevant to them and their financial needs.

A custom designed agenda is created for each participant highlighting their abilities and interests.

The following activities are woven into each trip:

- 1) **Business Mentoring** – The business and professional person presents their business lesson to a group of people interested in learning business skills. Although the lessons are based on solid Biblical principles, they are not Bible studies. For example: a sales person may teach on improving selling techniques from the basis of ethics, honesty, and respect.
- 2) **Business Visitations** – Confirmed appointments are scheduled with local business people in their place of business. The purpose of the visits is to build relationships and give encouragement.
- 3) **University Lectures** – The next generation of business people in every nation is in college right now. The trip participants lecture on a business topic to members of the student body at major colleges or universities.
- 4) **Biblical Teachings** – This is the place and time to utilize the Bible and teach a lesson of encouragement and a life consistent with God. You are encouraged to include personal examples about how God has worked in you as an individual and in your profession.
- 5) **Cultural Experiences** – Traveling to Armenia or Georgia is a great cultural experience. Every city and country has special events and sights that are unique to their culture. Your schedule includes time to really have fun and enjoy the uniqueness of the culture you are visiting.

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International

H.A.R.T-US

Our Mission

The Humanitarian Aid Relief Fund (HART-US's) mission is to provide aid and advocacy for those who are, or who have been, suffering oppression and persecution, and who are largely neglected by the International media.

Through co-operation with local partners with the requisite vision, knowledge, skills and commitment, HART-US strives to find appropriate aid solutions that are sensitive to local/cultural values and that aim to be replicable and sustainable in the long term.

We need your help to give a voice to the voiceless and to make others aware of the work of Baroness Caroline Cox.

Our Programs

- Education
 - Environment
 - Health
- Human Rights

Our Guiding Principles

HART-US differs from other aid and advocacy organizations in that we combine both Aid and Advocacy in the work we do. We believe that only through a twin-track program of international advocacy and aid can sustainable community development, local ownership and empowerment, be achieved.

Our Promise

We are committed to the prevention and alleviation of suffering and to the upholding of human dignity, the provision of support for local values, local ownership and local capacity-building as the most appropriate and sustainable methods of promoting change and a belief in the value of advocacy with aid; providing a voice for the voiceless for victims of oppression and persecution. Please help us make a difference in the lives of those most often overlooked underserved and forgotten! We look forward to sharing the stories of the lives we continue to change.

Web site: www.hart-usa.org



In Motion Ministries

IMM has been "making missionaries" since 1986. Many nations and many hearts have been touched. Lives have been forever changed. In the midst of seeing many miracles, the miracle of salvation is the best of all! Not the least of all has been the changed lives of those who have made the decision to go as a short term missionary.

Our short term mission trips vary in length from one week to three months. Anyone over the age of 14 can apply. Our destinations are local, national, or international. Regardless of the location we work with local pastors or missionaries. We go to serve and meet the needs of that missionary or pastor. No one goes out untrained. We equip you for the job. Each team member goes out to minister -- this is not a spectator sport!

Short term missionaries come home prepared for outreach in their own community. They come home with infectious enthusiasm which benefits their church. They come home with new vision, a bigger heart for the world, and a changed life. It is only the beginning!

We are equipped to help you organize and hold a Church wide missions conference. This is a wonderful opportunity to stir the heart of your church family with an excitement for missions. We can help you emphasize a particular part of the world or specific missionaries if you would like. A church that reaches out to the world is a vibrant church. This begins at home and moves out to the uttermost parts of the earth. We like to teach the scriptural foundation of the churches involvement in missions. Too many people see the "Go ye" of the Great Commission as you, not me! We will unveil the limitless possibilities of short term missions. We are no longer in the era where "missionary" means to leave home, never to return again. Short term missions can be very effective, and it is guaranteed to change your life. Your church may not have a Missions Department. If you are interested in establishing one, we can help you get one set up and tailored to your church needs.

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International

Fiji Islands, South Pacific

In Motion Ministries

Fiji is a group of islands in the South Pacific, above New Zealand and to the right of Australia as you look at a map. These islands are surrounded by intrigue, romance, mystery and many social challenges. We will be working with long time friends, Mark and Linnie Roche and Homes of Hope. Homes of Hope offers young women the chance to leave drugs, prostitution and being homeless for a life with God. They need our helping hands in building their new ministry facilities. Make a difference; we will show you how!

Together we will put our hands to physical labor and construction as we help to construct several buildings on the beautiful Wailoku Homes of Hope Complex. Don't worry; you don't have to be a professional builder to be of great service on this project.

After several days of building, we will put our hands to work in local churches and schools. Using drama, dance, love and care we will encourage youth and children to pursue a God who loves them dearly. Many of them have not known love, they need to hear that God loves them and wants to live life with them.

These words just give you a glimpse at the impact you will have. Take the step and join us on this grand MISSIONS ADVENTURE!

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International



Our vision is to take the gospel where Christ is not known
([Romans 15:20](#)).

Our mission is to partner with national ministries by taking volunteers from the body of Christ on short-term trips to evangelize the least-reached using "JESUS" film products.

With more than 40 mission trips available each year, our experienced team leaders provide safe and meaningful mission experiences for teams ranging from 10 to 20 participants. These teams travel to more than 30 different countries to distribute copies of the "JESUS" film in the local languages. The teams also host large outdoor film showings, resulting in many viewers coming to know Christ personally. Since 1997 we have taken more than 4,000 individuals to some of the most unreached people groups in the world.

We are looking for people with a love for the Lord, a taste for adventure and a desire to serve Christ by helping to reach those who have never heard.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: JESUS Film Mission Trips
100 Lake Hart Drive
Orlando, FL 32832

Phone: 1-866-622-8747

Email: Tripinfo@jesusfilm.org

Web Site: www.jesusfilmmissiontrips.org



Cote D'Ivoire, also known as the “Ivory Coast,” presents a memorable and significant ministry opportunity in this premiere French speaking African country. However, you won't have to speak French to enjoy the picturesque scenery as we travel to the northern regions. Experience the warm embrace of hospitality as you are welcomed into their culture amidst the village setting.

The majority of the Senoufo people of the north practice ancestral worship as expressed through various rituals to obtain the blessings of the dead. While these traditions have held for most, still the number of Muslims has increased. There remains an open opportunity to share the truth by showing the *JESUS* film in their native language. You can bring the message of hope so they will understand what Christ has done for them. You will learn how to use the most effective evangelistic tool today and be a part of something much bigger than you can ever imagine.

North Africa: Centuries ago, the newly established church flourished in this remote part of Africa. A millennia later, the descendants of these church fathers know nothing of Christianity or even their own history!

While very friendly and open to foreigners, people are not allowed to openly talk about Christianity, and most of those in the interior of the country will never have an opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ without outside help. You can bring the gospel back to these crossroads.

Journey with us to these historical lands, exploring their history while placing copies of the *JESUS* film—and giving copies to those we meet—along the way. We've found that, on average, a copy of the *JESUS* film is viewed by fifty or more individuals. As these people write in for more information, the follow-up process begins, and churches are established. Come with us for two weeks, and help bring the *JESUS* film to these forgotten people.

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Today, **East Asia** remains restrictive to evangelism, but the people are currently open to the gospel like never before. As an American, you have a great opportunity to accelerate the spread of the good news in East Asia. We will be teaching conversational English classes while reaching out to high school students at a minority high school. You'll be amazed at how easy it is to make friends and share the gospel with them.

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Prayer Walk: Break through spiritual darkness, and ask God to open hearts to the gospel.

Personal Evangelism: Touch hearts as you share your personal testimony and the message of Christ one-on-one while teaching conversational English.

Gifts: Give *JESUS* film DVDs for them to watch and share with others.

South Asia: Glistening in the Indian Ocean lies a tropical island known for its pristine beaches, lush forests, and ancient temples. The activities of the local people revolve around the three eastern religions that predominate here. Only three percent of its villages currently have a witness for Christ. The capital city, the center of culture, holds the key to reaching this nation for Christ.

Through teaching basic English to university students, we hope to engage in one-to-one evangelism. Prayer walking through the lush, green hill country nearby will help to lay a foundation for future ministry. Whether you enjoy quiet walks in the countryside or the activity of a large city, the Lord can use you to speak His Word to the people of this spiritually-needy country. Come join us and see what He will do!

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Come with us to **London** to reach out to some of the hardest to reach people in the world. An incredibly effective, low-key, way to help influential Gulf Arabs hear about Christ's love.

London is the main tourist destination for the Gulf State Arabs as they escape the blazing heat of their summer. We will be involved in distribution of the *JESUS* film and New Testament and developing friendships. Come share the love of Christ and have a great time doing it. You will also have time to view biblical artifacts on our private tour of the British Museum and see London in your free time.

This is a family-friendly mission trip, also accepting children ages 8-17 accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Marseille, France: Come with us and touch the lives of North African Arabs as they return to their home countries from temporary jobs held in Europe. They flood to the port cities of Spain, France, Italy, and Malta every year. These people are from some of the most closed countries (hard to reach with the gospel) in the world. We offer gifts of *JESUS* videos, audios, and written materials to them. Each piece handed out includes an opportunity for them to request follow-up materials and Bibles.

This mission outreach is in partnership with multiple agencies. For the past ten years this has been considered one of the most effective evangelistic efforts to reach North Africans in history. You can be part of making history.

This is a family-friendly mission trip, also accepting children ages 13-17 accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Come and join the harvest.

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International

Lutheran World Federation in Haiti

About LWF in Haïti By Pat Hansen, from ELCA Bahamas Synod

Lutheran World Federation is our "Companion Synod" in Haiti. They are called Federation Luthérienne Mondiale (FLM) there. LWF is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year ; it represents 140 member churches with about 66 million Lutherans and it is participating in our work in Haiti as we help the Federation Evangélique Luthérienne D'Haïti -- FELD'HA (the Evangelical Lutheran presence) grow and become stronger.

LWF acts on the behalf of all member churches - that includes Faith Lutheran in Ormond Beach - by giving humanitarian assistance, supporting mission development, ecumenical relations, and theology to 68 countries around the world. "The LWF confesses the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the only norm of its doctrine, life and service. . . LWF confesses (with us) one holy, catholic and apostolic church and is resolved to serve Christian unity throughout the world."

To that end FLM has been working with us as we develop such programs as theological training, teacher training, church building, women's assemblies, and provide scholarship opportunities. Without LWF we would not be able to make much progress since they provide logistical and other support. They constitute our home away from home.

FLM was the guiding spirit behind the "Pig and Pastors" program started by Pastor Luther Kistler here in Florida. They have worked with the Haitians in matters dealing with piggeries, coffee growing (and marketing), water projects, and other humanitarian and human rights programs. Now they are working to provide the Haitians with the knowledge that will allow them to produce cattle herds and therefore provide wholesome milk as a money-making enterprise. They are engaged in a number of cooperative programs with other non-profit agencies -- and without these agencies, life in Haiti would be much more difficult.

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International

Men for Missions International

Men for Missions International (MFMI), being a Spirit-led dynamic movement, born of God, commits to world evangelism by providing opportunities for laymen to be used by God through involvement in practical and innovative mission activities as a part of OMS International, Inc. (OMSI).

MFMI will become a cutting edge ministry by being visionary, innovative, creative, and flexible as it embraces opportunities and confronts spiritual indifference. It values its volunteers, will expand their roles in ministry and strive to increase their effectiveness. MFMI will consistently meet its goals by being a highly effective and efficient short-term mission specialist providing an avenue of voluntary missionary service for laymen to share the Good News with the lost. They will return with a changed heart and a new zeal for soul winning.

MFMI will greatly increase its challenge to men from varied church affiliations and every walk of life to participate in domestic and international ministries by using their personal skills, abilities, and resources to get the message of Christ to the people of the world in this generation.

MFMI will impact the international business community by sending teams of business people across the world to conduct professional seminars on Christian ethics and values. Further, it will encourage Christian business people to network through their business contacts in winning people to Christ.

MFMI will be catalyst to revitalize and increase the number of MFI councils worldwide, uniting them in intercessory prayer, involvement on the mission field, and underwriting the financial needs of the global mission effort.

MFMI will focus on challenging men to be used of God in life changing experiences for not only themselves but also their families, friends and churches.

MFMI will place highly qualified, God-called staff in clearly defined positions, nurture and train them to achieve their full effectiveness, and encourage open communications.

Men for Missions challenges you to use your skills, resources and prayers to reach the world for Christ.

Contact Information:

Address: Men for Missions International
PO Box A
Greenwood, IN 46142

Phone: 317-881-6752

Email: info@mfmi.org

Website: <http://www.mfmi.org>



International

Men for Missions International

Colombia Work Team

This team will be helping with various projects, such as remodel or painting, at Bogota Christian School. This trip will take place from December 4th through December 18th, 2009. We are looking for people who have a heart for the Lord and are willing to work hard.

Ecuador Church Construction Team

This work team will assist with church Construction in Riobamba, Ecuador and helping with various projects for the OMS International missionaries. The team will also have opportunity to interact with national coworkers and others as they participate in the various ministries of OMS in Ecuador.

Work Team in Cap Haitian, Haiti

FULL DESCRIPTION:team will be helping to take care of various work tasks at the OMS missionary compound as well as other locations. The team will also have opportunity to interact with national coworkers and others as they participate in the various ministries of OMS in cap Haitian, Haiti.

Mozambique Prayer Team

This team will be working with the OMS International missionaries and other Mozambique Christians as they have specific prayer walks for local ministries. This will be a great opportunity to meet many Mozambique Christians as well as get to know the OMS missionaries.

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Central America, Haiti, South Africa



International

Mission Discovery

Mission Statement

To serve Jesus Christ by mobilizing the church to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the world's poor.

Since Mission Discovery's beginning, over 20,000 students and adults have built homes and churches and have shared the gospel with hundreds of people in the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, Africa, and the United States. Mission Discovery projects are organized around 5-10 day outreaches. Each team will be involved in a vital construction project along with an outreach led by team members that communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ. Hundreds have decided to follow Christ each year through Mission Discovery outreaches such as Children's Bible School and door to door evangelism.

Our goal at Mission Discovery is to provide an atmosphere where teams are able to focus on serving the poor of the world. This means that we take care of the details, such as lodging, food, worship, building materials, etc. In this way, we believe that we provide an environment for growth and servanthood that is like no other.

Mission Discovery Pre-Field Orientation is a weekend experiential training event covered in the price of every project. We invite one leader from each group to attend the event in Nashville, TN. Your team is guaranteed to be prepared for the best possible experience on your project with Mission Discovery PFO Training.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: Mission Discovery
1509 Hunt Club Blvd.
Suite 1200
Gallatin, TN 37066
Phone: 800-767-8720
Email: projects@missiondiscovery.org
Website: www.missiondiscovery.org



Mission Discovery

Bahamas - Church/Home/School Construction (Nassau, Bahamas)

This is not your typical trip to the Bahamas! In the region around the capital city of Nassau, thousands of Haitian refugees have ventured here to make a new start. With no money, no jobs, and no homes, they attempt to build a life. The Bahamian government provides little help to this growing population, and the need for education and housing is enormous. Mission Discovery short term mission trip teams will help construct churches and daycare facilities, repair homes, and lead children's bible school in poor Bahamian and Haitian communities. Your group may also meet great spiritual needs by visiting locals door-to-door or hanging out in an orphanage or youth center in Nassau.

Eden, Jamaica - School Construction (Eden, Jamaica)

Eden is a small village set back in the hills and rainforests of Jamaica. In this tiny town, the Jamaican Christian School for the Deaf ministers to hearing impaired and special needs children whose families could not otherwise afford such excellent attention and care. Mission Discovery short term mission trip teams spend a week staying and serving at the Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf. Projects can include building new dorms and classrooms, creating safe play areas for the children, or building perimeter fences. Your team will also lead a children's bible school in the community of Eden and spend a day at Blossom Garden Children's Home, an orphanage for more than 70 children.

Montego Bay - Church/School Construction (Montego Bay, Jamaica)

Near the city of Montego Bay, your mission team will work at one of several ministry sites. The church hosts a pre-school that now has more than 80 children in attendance, providing children with education and care so mothers in this poor neighborhood are able to work. Mission Discovery short term mission trip teams are vital to the important work being done in the community of Barrett Hall. Your group will work hard laying block, carrying sand, and mixing concrete. You will also have the opportunity to lead a children's bible school for the community children and work at Blossom Garden Children's Home, Montego Bay's city orphanage that houses more than 70 children.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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International

Overseas Missionary Fellowship International

Our Vision

Through God's grace, we aim to see an indigenous, biblical church movement in each people group of East Asia, evangelizing their own people and reaching out in mission to other peoples.

Our Mission

To Glorify God by the urgent evangelization of East Asia's Millions.

We are OMF International (formerly the China Inland Mission and Overseas Missionary Fellowship). We serve the church and bring the gospel to many of the countries in East Asia, and we have a pioneering ministry in the rest. We help place Christians with professional skills in China and other Asian countries, and share the love of Christ with East Asians worldwide.

Join us in praying for OMF's work, going to Asia, supporting OMF workers and promoting OMF's work among East Asians.

If you're prepared to move out of your comfort zone, expand your horizons and make a difference, we'll find the right short-term program for you, for the appropriate length of time.

All programs provide teams and individuals with the opportunity to spend time in East Asia and to find out what it's like to take the gospel to those who wouldn't otherwise get to hear it.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: OMF International
10 W Dry Creek Circle,
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International

Cambodia

Overseas Missionary Fellowship International

OMF Cambodia

Cambodia is well-known for its sprawling Angkor temples. The monuments and carved towers take your breath away, but remind us of the spiritual darkness which covers this land and her people. Although the Kingdom of God is growing rapidly in Cambodia, 98% of her people still do not know Christ. Through God's grace we long to see the transformation of Cambodia through the proclamation and demonstration of the good news of Jesus Christ.

Serve Asia is, ironically, about *servicing*. But it's also about testing out whether God might be calling you to serve him in a long-term capacity. It's about learning to love Khmer people and aspects of their culture. It's about using your skills to help Cambodians and to encourage long term missionaries in their work settings. It's about learning to trust God in a new way and being a part of an international community of people who are passionate about building the Kingdom of God in Cambodia. It's about individuals and teams. Just in this past year we have received Serve Asia workers (SAW's) from Japan, Germany, Switzerland, USA, Philippines, England and Wales.

Think you've got what it takes to come to Cambodia? For just US\$10 a day we can host you for anything from 10 days to 11 months. There are a number of opportunities with both our Church planting and Development teams. Perhaps you want to work with University students or teach English in a city Church plant. Are you a Doctor or Nurse? Perhaps you are Dentist or Nutritionist? Perhaps you have skills related to income generation projects that you can use to encourage or train locals. Whatever your passion, come and see if God has a place for you with us.

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International

SIERRA TARAHUMARA MOUNTAINS, MEXICO

Your team will be traveling to an altitude of around 10,000 feet to the very peaks of the Sierra Tarahumara mountains. The mountains are home to the Tarahumaran Native Americans, who are descendants of the Anasazi (Cave Dwellers). There are only about 50,000 of these people left in the entire world, and they live in small villages scattered throughout the mountains. They are an incredibly beautiful people, they are the poorest of the poor. Many even lack basic necessities such as electricity and running water, shoes and education. Since this people group has been largely ignored, churches have helped pick up the slack.

You will be serving at Templo de la Salvación church in the upper region of the Sierra Tarahumaras. They have a thriving church body of indigenous peoples, and there are already six church plants in the surrounding villages. Your team will help construct one of two new rooms at the church to be used as overnight lodging and a dining hall for their own church members, and also as team houses for future teams. Church members walk 3-4 hours each way to get to church on Sunday! The additions will not only be a beautiful blessing for all those who walk, it is also a critical step in bringing more help and resources to our brothers and sisters in their remote mountain villages. Additionally, you will be interacting with the Tarahumaran people, taking part in their church services and helping with forward thinking outreaches.

This is definitely on the "forward edge" of mission opportunities. The needs are great, the people are beautiful, and the location is amazing. We need your help. Join us!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address Forward Edge International
 15121-A NE 72nd Ave.
 Vancouver, WA 98686

Phone: (360)574-3343

Email: FEI@FORWARDEDGE.ORG

Web site: www.forwardedge.org



International

SAMS' purpose is to recruit, send and support missionaries to be witnesses and make disciples for Jesus Christ in fellowship with the Episcopal/Anglican Church primarily in the Americas. SAMS' missionaries share the Gospel, establish churches, train national church leaders, and minister socially through medical clinics and Christian schools.

SAMS serves the Episcopal/Anglican Church by helping to send people. SAMS missionaries share the good news of Jesus Christ through words and actions in partnership with the Anglican Church primarily in the Americas.

SAMS sends adults to serve from a month to a career (long-term missions). SAMS also sends teams from churches for one to two weeks (short-term missions) for assignments such as building homes for the poor or running a VBS.

SAMS supports individuals and churches who are called to go, give, or pray. Individuals who sense a call to serve as missionaries are assisted through a careful discernment, training and placement process. Short-term mission teams are given support through comprehensive training, logistical coordination and debriefing.

SAMS' short-term opportunities are available to churches that are called to share the love of Jesus Christ in Latin America and Spain. Church involvement in short-term missions is an excellent way for parishioners to learn more about the need, development, and responsibility of mission-minded churches.

Short-term missions is also a great discernment tool for those wishing to explore a call to long-term missionary service. SAMS' short-term teams work with our long-term missionaries in assignments that last from one to two weeks, depending on the project requirements. Longer terms of service are available through SAMS' missionary personnel department. SAMS' Short-Term missions office is available to help you in a variety of ways. We can connect you with existing short-term missions opportunities and we will work with your church as your mission experience unfolds.

SAMS also provides Short-term mission training that all first-time team leaders must attend before they lead a SAMS' short-term mission.

Contact Information:

Address: SAMS
Lynn Boutrese
PO Box 399
Ambridge, PA 15003

Phone: (724) 266 0669

Email: Available only through the web site.

Website: www.samsusa.org



International

Honduras

South American Missions Society

Praise Points:

The Episcopal Church is growing rapidly.

Social ministries including micro-enterprise development, community based healthcare, education for healthcare, outreach to women and children, construction of wells and homes for the very poor are an important part of the vision of the diocese.

Alpha courses, discipleship classes, Sunday Schools, Bible studies as well as theological training are helping to equip lay and clergy leadership in the church.

Geography:

Area: 112,100 sq. km. (43,270 sq. mi.); about the size of Louisiana.

Cities: Capital--Tegucigalpa (1,150,000); San Pedro Sula (800,000-900,000).

Terrain: Mountainous.

Climate: Tropical to subtropical, depending on elevation.

Fast Facts:

- The Honduran economy is based on agricultural products such as coffee, bananas and sugar.
- Unemployment runs at 40% with over 53% of the population living below the poverty line.
- Devastated by Hurricane Mitch in 1998, Honduras suffered severe damage to roads, bridges, and cultivated land. Over 13,000 were missing or dead. Infrastructure may take another 35 years to restore.
- 127 Episcopal Churches

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Lloyd Allen

Contact Information:

Address: Diocese of Central Florida
Honduras Commission
1017 E. Robinson St.
Orlando, FL 32801

Phone: (407)423-3567



International

Turkey Prayer Team

The Muslim call to prayer amplified five times a day will repeatedly remind you of your purpose. Whether walking in the city square, or hiking on the mountain tops, the primary goal of this team is to make a difference in the most unreached part of the nation through strategic prayer/prayerwalking and relationship building.

As you experience legendary Turkish hospitality, you will learn about Turkey's culture, history, and religion. You will be exposed to the spiritual needs of a Muslim country, help encourage the long-term workers, have English language interaction with local students, and life exchanges with Turkish people.

Your main purpose is to pray and learn, but there may be times to carefully and respectfully share your faith on a one-to-one basis. Be ready for some spectacular mountain hikes! Includes a short visit to Istanbul.

No previous experience required, but must be committed Christians who are relationship-oriented and motivated to pray. Team members need to be in good health for plenty of walking and for hiking in the mountains.

STEM will handle all the logistical details for you, including providing on-site, thorough training and experienced leadership.

Contact Information:

Address: PO Box 386001
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Website: <http://STEMintl.org>



International

Youth Missions

Youth on Mission

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

Youth On Mission seeks to mobilize youth and adults in home mission involvement in a variety of settings, resulting in life-style evangelism and spiritual growth.

Youth on Mission seeks to mobilize youth and adults in hands on mission involvement in a variety of settings, resulting in life-style evangelism and spiritual growth.

Evangelical in doctrine, we believe that salvation is by faith, and Jesus is the Son of God. We believe in the virgin birth, resurrection, and the second coming of Christ. All Christians are called to minister.

Youth On Mission is a Christian organization that plans weeklong mission trips for youth groups. Since 1992, we have had over 54,000 participants from multiple denominations and states. We coordinate trips throughout the **United States and Canada and now Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Bahamas and Scotland**, during spring break, summer, and fall break.

We offer your group the opportunity and flexibility to do whatever type of work you want to do. Some possibilities are VBS, Backyard Bible Clubs, home repair, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, pregnancy care centers, block parties, choir performances, painting, yard work, and most anything else you can imagine. Your group assignment (s) would be customized based on your interests, and your group would not be mixed with other groups during the day. We offer evening programming that all groups attend, so your teens would still have interaction with those outside of your group, allowing for both intra-group bonding and inter-group fellowship.

Our trips are generally set up for Sundays – Fridays, but we are flexible with dates. We offer housing (always in a college dorm, hotel, or retreat center), daily hot buffet breakfast and bag lunch, mission assignment, and YOM staff to help however needed during your trip. We work with students of all ages (rising 7th grade and up!), and we work hard to find mission projects that fit the expectations and qualifications of your group.

Contact Information:

Mailing Address: Frank Dees
Youth On Mission
PO Box 4259
Rocky Mount, NC 27803-0259

Phone: 800-299-0385

Email: yom@yom.org Web Site: www.yom.org

International- Clearinghouses

Additional Ministry Opportunities



Address: Fishers of Men Medical Ministries
55054 Maple Heights Road
Coquille, Oregon 97423

Phone: (541)290-4000

Email: andy@fommm.org

Web site: www.fommm.org



Address: Habitat for Humanity International
121 Habitat Street
Americus, GA 31709

Phone: (800)422-4828

Web site: www.habitat.org

International- Clearinghouses

Additional Ministry Opportunities



Address: Operation Blessing International
P.O. Box 2636
Virginia Beach, VA 23450

Phone: (800)730-2537

Web site: www.operationblessing.org



Address: UMCOR International
475 Riverside Drive, Room 1374
New York, NY 10115

Phone: (212)870-3552

Email: umcor_office@umcor.org

Website: www.umcor-ngo.org