



GLO MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

Serving & Training all over the World

CrossCountry STM Guiding Principles

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Short Term Mission Trip Programs

Guiding Principles

1.0. Background

Since GLO Ministries' inception Short Term Mission Trips have played an important role in GLO Ministries' overall mission work. At this point in time GLO Ministries is considering how we can further develop and improve our involvement in Short term Missions.

2.0. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- Propose some "guiding Principles" for GLO Short Term Mission Trips
- Discussing the way ahead for Discovering, Developing and Deploying key Personnel for further developing Short Term Mission Trip Programs

3.0 Principles for GLO Short Term Mission Trips

Each short-term mission is unique. Culture, personality, team size, leadership, and length of ministry are just a few factors affecting each experience. Despite the incredible variety, it has been my experience that the success of a mission trip comes down to just four primary factors: “who” knowing “how” and “when” to do “what”.

To put it in other words, the success of a mission trip comes down to the “participants” (who) having a clear “picture” (what) of the Short Term Mission throughout all the “phases” of the trip (when) and then incorporating all of this into a Short Term Mission Trip “plan” (how).

3.1. A Clear Picture of what makes up a Short Term Mission Trip

A clear “picture” (what) of the Short Term Mission is made up of a trilogy of “philosophy”, “purpose” and “practices”.

3.1.1. Philosophy

- a. Short Term Mission should be “God centred”, not “man centred”*
- b. Short Term Mission is a “process”, not an “event”*
- c. Short Term Mission is dependent upon a “Divine Partnership” and not just “Human Planning and Programming”*
- d. Short Term Mission should be “church based” and “church orientated”*

2. Purpose

Ultimately the purpose of every mission trip is to bring God glory and extend His kingdom. This can be done through focusing on one or all of the following:

- Expressing Christ's love through Service
- Exposing Team Members to Missions
- Evangelising unbelievers
- Edifying and Encouraging believers
- Specialised

In the early formation of a mission trip the purpose should be decided upon and then communicated clearly to all participants throughout all the phases of the Mission Trip

3. Practices

Wise, biblical, and culturally-appropriate methods which bear spiritual Fruit.

- a. *Wise Methods*
- b. *Biblical Methods*
- c. *Culturally-Appropriate Methods*

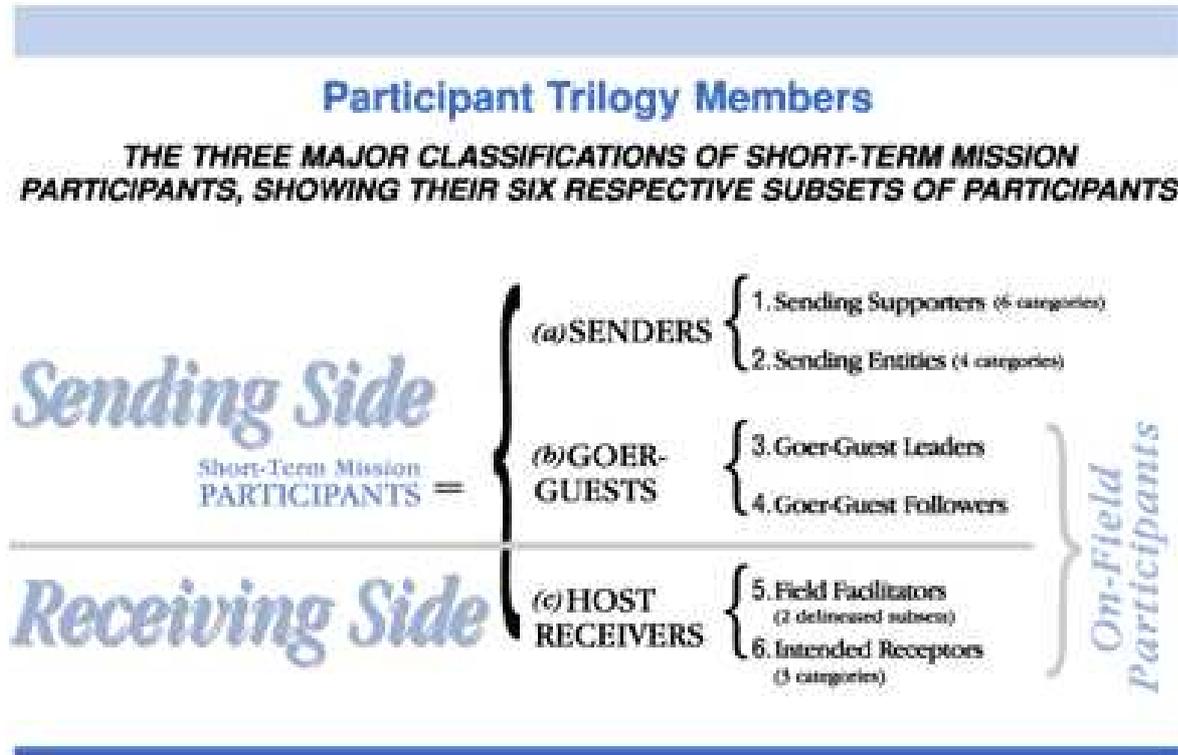
B. Partnership between the various Participants (Senders, Goers & Receivers)

There is a "Participant Trilogy" to every effective Short Term Mission Trip. This "Participant Trilogy" is made up of "Senders", "Goer-Guests", and "Host Receivers".

(Note: Based on 3 John 5-8 and Matt. 10:40-42, Senders, Goer-Guests, and Host Receivers are assumed to be equal participants in any short-term mission endeavour.)

1. Two Primary Sides

We acknowledge the two primary “sides” of any mission outreach—the “sending side” (senders and goers) and the “receiving side.”



As short-term mission practitioners from both sides, we pledge to work together within the framework of an empowering partnership, focusing not only on the interests of the “side” we represent, but also the interests of the other “side” (Phil. 2:3).

We further acknowledge that partnership in Christian mission is a complementary relationship motivated by common purposes and sustained by a willingness to learn and grow together in obedience to God while serving him. We pledge to openly admit any personal benefits we hope to achieve as a result of our partnership, while keeping the intended receptors’ benefits as our primary goal.

2. *Three Parties involved in Short Term Mission*

The participants of a Short Term Mission are made up of a trilogy of “senders”, “goers” and “receivers”.

a. *Senders*

Those who send short-term missionaries; specifically includes two subsets: all of the Sending Supporters and the Sending Entity(s).

i. *Sending Supporters*

Sending Supporters — individuals, families, churches, organizations, or others who voluntarily support a short-term missionary in one or more of the following ways:

- i. Prayer support
- ii. Financial support
- iii. Logistical support
- iv. Emotional support
- v. Communication support
- vi. Re-entry support

(Adapted from *Serving as Senders* by Neal Pirolo, San Diego CA: Emmaus Road, International, 1991, ISBN 1-880185-00-8)

ii. Sending Entities

Sending Entities — organisations which provide the Pre-Field and Post-Field administrative structure for Goer- Guests.

- Sending Entities have management and communication responsibility on the STM sending-side.
- Sending Entities mutually design every short-term outreach in conjunction with the Field Facilitators.
- Sending entities include churches, mission agencies, schools, and other Christian organizations that send short-term missionaries anywhere in the world.

b. Goer Guests

Goer-Guests — those who go to the field to serve; specifically includes two subsets: all of the Goer-Guest Leaders and all of the Goer-Guest Followers (i.e., all of the individuals or team members who are being sent)

i. Goer-Guest Leaders

Any short-term mission leaders sent to the field by the Sending Entity(s). They go to the field like Goer-Guests Follower, but have certain leadership responsibilities with respect to the STM project. Note that almost all Goer-Guest Leaders will often need to submit to other leadership — either other Goer-Guest Leaders or Field Facilitators.

ii. Goer-Guest Followers

Individual short-term missionaries or team members who do not have major leadership responsibilities.

c. Host Receivers

Host Receivers — the on-field persons who receive short-term missionaries; specifically includes two subsets: Field Facilitators and Intended Receptors (i.e., everyone at the on-field location: full-time missionaries, other expatriates, national pastors and local leaders, local nationals and any local organizations which they represent such as churches, civic organizations, NGOs, etc.)

i. Field Facilitators

Field missionaries or national host leaders who serve as on-field liaisons for the on-field STM arrangements.

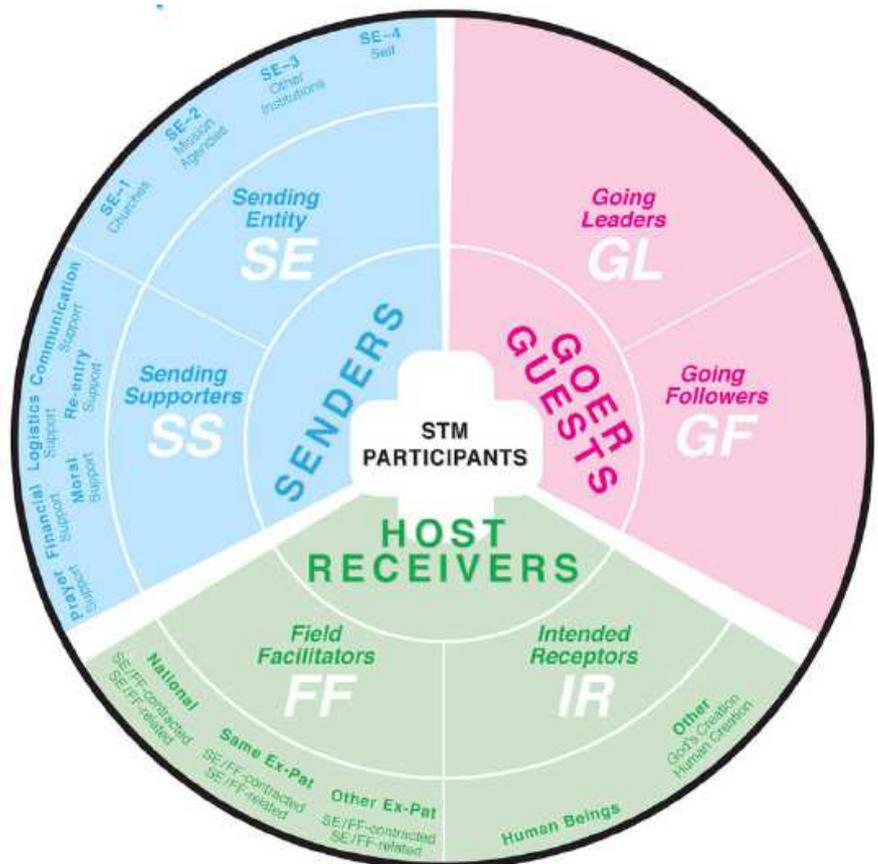
- Field Facilitators have management and communication responsibility for the STM receiving-side (field administration, field set-up, field program support, field logistical support and field follow-up).
- Field Facilitators mutually design every short-term outreach in conjunction with the Sending Entity(s).

ii. *Intended Receptors*

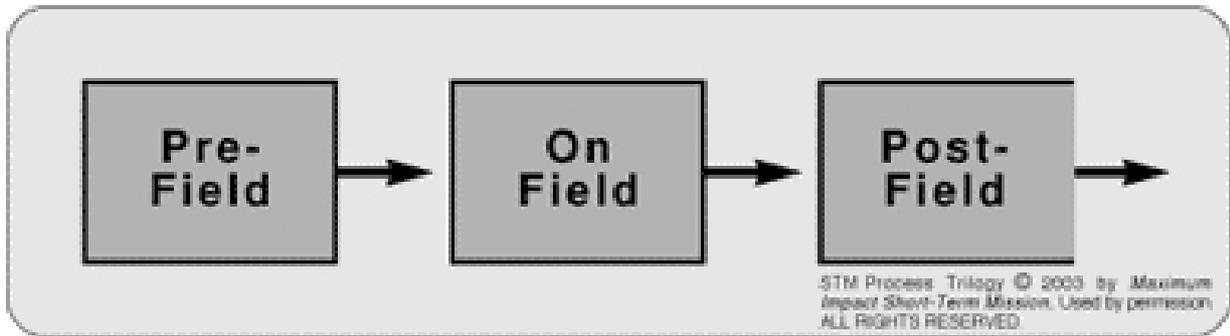
The people on the field who will receive the Goer-Guests' service or mission activity.

In some short-term missions the focus has been on the benefits for the goers in terms of exposure to another culture and faith development. However, a focus on the receiver is also needed so that the gospel is effectively proclaimed in the receiving country and that receiving believers (whether long-term workers or nationals) are served, discipled and encouraged rather than exhausted and drained.

Second only to seeking first God's glory and his kingdom, it is important that the goers and senders pledge that the primary purpose of the short term mission trip is for the sake of our intended receptors.



C. *PHASES of a Short Term Mission Trip (Pre-Field, On-Field & Post-Field)*



a. *Pre-Field*

Pre-Field — time period before the on-field portion of the outreach begins. Pre-field begins at the moment of outreach conception, regardless of who, where, or how the outreach was conceived.

Pre-field involves planning the short-term mission, recruiting participants, and preparing participants for the short-term mission.

b. *On-Field*

On-field is the execution of a particular short-term mission. On-Field covers the time period when Goer-Guests are on-site with the Host Receivers for their intended mission outreach. It exists from the moment of arrival to the moment of departure.

c. *Post-Field*

Post-Field — time period after the on-field portion of the outreach ends. Post-field continues indefinitely for all participants, with perhaps the greatest impact in Goer-Guests and Intended Receptors.

One of the guiding principles is that a short-term mission trip is a process not an event. This makes post-field engagement with the participants essential for integrating the short-term mission into the rest of God's purposes for their lives.

D. PLAN – Putting it All Together

Step 1: Trip Determination Phase (12 to 10 months prior to departure)

a. Answer Preliminary Questions

- Why do you want to embark on a Short Term Mission Trip?
- What type of ministry is your church interested in? Evangelism, Construction, English as a Second Language, Medical Clinic, Vacation Bible School, etc.
- What missionaries does your church support? Would they be willing to host a STM team?
- What people groups does your church have a burden for?
- What ethnic groups are represented within your local community and church body?
- Who will lead the missions team?
- What age group will participate?
- When would be a good time of year for the short-term ministry opportunity be offered?

b. Select a Ministry & Location

c. Establish a Budget

d. Share the Vision with the Church and wider believing community

Step 2: Trip Publicity Phase (9 to 7 months prior to departure)

a. Publicity Content

Before you advertise, know the following information:

- i. Trip Description (ministry type and location)
- ii. Cost (estimate)¹
- iii. Time Frame of Project
- iv. Target Group (age range)
- v. Training Schedule
- vi. Team Selection Process (Application deadlines and the contact person's phone number to call for questions)

b. Publicity Ideas

¹ When planning a trip, consider the following expenses:

- Airfare
- Meals & Lodging
- In-country Transportation
- Overseas Insurance
- Immunisations
- Team Training Expenses
- Ministry Materials
- Agency Administration Fee
- Project Costs

Church Publications - bulletin inserts, flyer, posters Brochure - distribute throughout the church or mail directly to the group of individuals you are challenging to become involved.

Informational Meeting - provide promotional material and applications. Have short-term veterans share about their experiences.

Testimonies/Videos - brief clips from a previous trip or host can be a great motivator during a worship service. Promote your project during a missions month or missions conference.

Step 3: Team Selection Phase (6 to 5 months prior to departure)

Properly selecting a team takes time, but it's worth it. An application is highly recommended because it helps you prayerfully evaluate the motivation and maturity of each potential member. Whether you are a small or large church, this is an important tool for developing a healthy, well balanced team.

a. Application Process

i. Application Form

When writing your application, include the following:

1. Full name and date of birth
2. Mailing address, phone, e-mail address, etc.
3. Birthday, employment & marital status
4. Passport valid for six months past the return date
5. Special medical needs and health history
6. Health insurance & emergency contact info
7. Personal testimony
8. Ministry & missions experience
9. Reason you want to go on this trip?
10. References (2-3)

☞ Consider age limits

☞ Consider setting an application deadline.

Setting the application deadline four to six weeks before your first team meeting will give you time to review all the applications and contact the accepted applicants.

ii. References

Screening applicants is crucial to a successful project. Please do not overlook this process no matter how difficult it is. Have written forms mailed back to you. Contact each reference by phone.

b. Selecting the Team

After you have received a completed application and checked references, if you are still uncertain about an applicant, set up an interview. It is better to get to know someone and confirm if they are qualified to serve than take an unprepared person.

Step 4: Team Training Phase
(4 months prior to departure or "on-field" if the team is drawn from a wide geographical area)

Research has confirmed what we have known for many years, effective pre-field training significantly increases the impact of the trip in the lives of both those who go and those who receive the team.

Training should aim to include a minimum of six to ten sessions. Meet every other week to give team members a chance to complete assignments. It is also helpful to schedule an overnight team retreat, all day training, and/or a few extended meetings to cover topics in greater detail.

Important Issues for Team Training

- Team Building
- Raising Support
- Cross-Cultural Adaptations
- Expectations, Attitudes & Policies
- Language Learning (songs, basic greetings)
- Ministry Preparation (testimonies)
- Evangelism Training
- Spiritual Development (prayer, journaling)
- Packing & Travel (passports, procedures, etc.)
- Health & Safety (team policy)

Step 5: Church Involvement Phase
(2 months prior to departure)

a. Organize a Group of Committed Senders

There are many ways, beyond raising support, to get your church involved in the short-term mission:

- Sunday school classes adopt a team member
- Materials and gifts can be donated
- Special prayer meetings
- Commissioning service Sunday morning
- Gift bag for team members (notes, sweets, film)
- Missions night or special dinner

b. Have a Commissioning Service

Step 6: Missions Project Phase
(on the field)

a. Implement the Short Term Mission Plan with a goal of achieving the purpose

b. Include key strategies to equip and encourage the team:

- i. Team Devotions
- ii. Ministry Training

- iii. *Team Briefing*
- iv. *Evening Debriefing*

Step 7: Re-Entry & Follow Through Phase (post-trip to 6 months later)

a. Debriefing the Team

Plan to use the last day on the field to prepare team members for adjusting into their own culture and processing their experiences. Team members may be thinking seriously about missions and will need direction about how to take the next step. Challenge each team member to incorporate what they have seen and learned into their daily lives at home. Have each team member complete an evaluation form describing the impact of the trip on their lives. Also, remember to write thank you letters to supporters.

b. Church Reporting

In advance, plan a special service for the team to share testimonies and explain how God worked. Capture the project (through video, photos, PowerPoint) for a presentation to the entire church body.

c. Local Cross-Cultural Projects

Challenge your team members to become actively involved in missions at home by organizing a Missions Fellowship, plan a local evangelism project, get involved with International Students or other local ministries.

d. Final Accounting & Summary

Be sure to provide an expense report to the elders, deacons/missions committee and pastoral staff. Evaluate the overall impact of the project and determine how to improve your next short-term project.

IV. Discussing the way ahead for Discovering, Developing and Deploying key Personnel for further developing Short Term Mission Trip Programs

V. Resources

The information from above was drawn from:

- The Seven Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission (www.SOE.org)
- Short-Term Mission Code of Best Practice Missions Interlink Australia 2009 (www.missionsinterlink.org.au)
- How to Plan a Short-Term Missions Team (www.iteams.org.au)