

Short Term Ministry Team Values and Best Practices

We at Encompass World Partners have found these Values and Best Practices to be helpful in promoting good will for the missionary, the Short Term Team participant and the local church. We recommend churches follow these guidelines as they send out teams.

Short Term Ministry Team (STMT) Values

STMTs seek to bring personal change in the team member:

A God focused lifestyle.

- A lifestyle dependent on God.
- A lifestyle committed to God's glory.
- A lifestyle that lives out a Biblical worldview.
 - Understanding of who God is
 - Understanding of who I am
 - Understanding of a spiritual world view

Lifestyle choices that join God in His mission.

- Prioritizing God's mission to those who have not heard, at home and around the world.
- Developing skills to engage God's mission.
 - Focused on life impact on people.
 - Focused on spiritual reproduction.
 - Engendering selfless ministry.

A life lived in Biblical community.

- Following leadership.
- Ministering to one another.
- Celebrating and engaging each team members' spiritual gifting in the body.
- Utilizing body life turned outward to reach the lost.

STMTs, as the core purpose, seek to accomplish in team ministry:

Advances in long-term ministry.

- STMTs recognize the expertise and experience of long term workers and come as learners.
- STMTs adopt the goals, ministry style and methods of the long-term workers so that their ministry will have sustainable, long-term impact.

Encouragement of the believers they encounter.

- STMTs rejoice in what God is doing, honoring God through recognizing His work in the believers lives and ministry.
- STMTs adapt to the host culture, honoring the believers through learning their culture.
- STMTs enable the believers in their own ministry through demonstrating reproducible methods

STMTs seek to strengthen the sending church through team members who:

Honor those who sent them through expressions of gratefulness, submission and partnership.

Practice and propagate an awareness of lost people.

Sustain contagious passion that moves people to evangelize and disciple now.

Continue to practice the ministry skills learned in local church ministries.

Seek to reproduce themselves and their growth in others.

STMT Best Practices

1. STMTs plan their ministries under the direction of long-term workers.

- STMTs recognize that they are entering into the stream of what God was doing before they arrived and will continue to do after they leave. So they minister with long-term workers.
- STMTs begin planning ministry by asking the long term workers, “How can we help you?”
- Long-term workers plan ministry in partnership with agency and team leaders, with understanding of the strengths and capabilities of short-term workers.

2. STMTs are led by qualified team leaders.

- Team leaders have spiritual integrity, leadership skills, ministry experience, shepherding skills and understanding of the ministries the team will assist. They can mentor and shepherd the team because their own lives model that which they seek for their team.
- Team leaders prepare, shepherd, and lead the team members in all aspects of their experience.
- Team leaders inculcate their team members with key concepts, skills and attitudes, planting specific “seeds” that will germinate into life change.
- Team leaders follow the leadership of the long term workers and agency leaders.

3. STMTs are administered with excellence and integrity.

- Advertising, financial arrangements and reporting are appropriate, clear and accurate.
- Risk is managed well.
- Logistics facilitate team goals.

4. STMTs orient team members to the ministry and culture they will serve and train them in the needed skills.

5. STMTs immerse the team members in the host culture.

6. STMTs minister to the people of the host culture.

- Team members will share the reality of Christ in them with believers and non-believers.
- Team leaders and long term workers will demonstrate the ministry skills and mentor the team members.

7. STMTs utilize daily times of worship, prayer and study to transfer Biblical ministry values.

8. STMTs enable team members to withstand the cultural and ministry stresses.

- Schedules provide sufficient times of rest.
- Housing and scheduling provide periods of relief from cultural stress.
- Team leaders monitor members’ health and reactions and intervene as needed.
- Team leaders encourage and demonstrate transparency and unity to foster body life.

9. Team members are encouraged to implement the skills and values they learned and experienced.

- STMTs help team members plan for their return and how they will implement change.
- STMTs encourage continued growth through follow-up.