

FBCIT Missions

Short-Term Mission Team Leader's Manual

Section I

Welcome!

We are so glad that you are considering leading a FBCIT short-term missions team. We are determined to make this trip the best possible experience for you and your entire team!

FBCIT is committed to join the Lord in fulfilling the Great Commission in carrying the Gospel to the ends of the earth, being faithful to the seven target areas God has shown us.

“Our leader served and encouraged us. He modeled the right attitude he wanted us to have.”

One of the best ways for our church to do this is through short-term mission trips. These trips help advance God's Kingdom in our target area but often, more importantly, advance God's Kingdom and plan in those who participate in short-term missions.

Two essential guiding principles must direct our short-term mission teams:

1. Excellence

We are committed to the principle that all FBCIT Mission trips be done with excellence. This excellence should be evident in the following ways:

- a. By effectively serving FBC mission partners on the field
- b. By discipling the FBC participants
- c. By carrying out the mission and vision of FBC Int'l Missions program..

For this to happen, trip leaders must be thoroughly trained and equipped; thus the purpose of these training session. Colossians 3:23(NIV) calls for this excellence: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”

2. Unity

There must be unity in purpose, mission, and vision; and that must come through the team leaders. Leadership is influence and so the leader models, guides, teaches, and directs his/her team in God’s way and purpose. Since our FBC partnerships in all our target areas are carrying out the FBC vision (on a more global scale), it is possible and necessary for all FBC short-term mission trips to advance FBC’s mission and vision. Thus the important rhetorical question of the Prophet Amos: “How can two walk together except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3).

“There was underlying tension during the trip because it seemed our team leader and the national host were at cross purposes.”

“Worship the Father” – Exciting worship services are a vital element of First Baptist. With great music and dynamic preaching, the worship experience is one that will touch and challenge your life as we worship together. It will also lead you to develop a life style of worship and praise to our Heavenly Father.

“Witness for the Son” – There is no greater challenge for a church than to spread the Gospel of Christ. First Baptist Church of Indian Trail teaches and promotes sharing our faith in our community, and around the world. Local outreach is done on a weekly basis. Mission teams go around the world to share their faith.

“Walk in the Spirit” – Every area of the discipleship program is designed to assist people in strengthening their daily walk with Christ. Whether in Life Groups, Discipleship Training, or other Bible Study groups, the purpose is to teach a daily walk with God. Only through Him can we effectively cope with the challenges of life.

If we know the purposes of the trip you plan on leading, describe how the trip purpose conforms to the mission stated above:

The following are the Core Commitments of FBC Int'l Missions:

- **M**aking disciples of those reached and those reaching.
- **I**nitiating partnerships with national churches and mission agencies with:
 - a. mutual respect for culture and ownership
 - b. shared mission and accountability
 - c. replicating growth
- **S**trategically targeting unreached and least reached peoples of the world with the Gospel.
- **S**ending only trained servant-hearted teams working toward long-term goals.
- **I**nvesting holistically to meet both spiritual and physical needs.
- **O**rchestrating prayer and care for all we serve on the field.
- **N**urturing every FBC man, woman, and child for significant cross-cultural ministry locally and globally.

“Our leader had certain favorites on the team so our whole team never jelled.”

Describe how your planned trips fulfill these core commitments:

Why do you want to lead a short-term trip?

Is it because of your concern and passion for the people and work of God in the culture group you and your team will visit? The natural tendency is for you to focus on what God may do through you and your team in the country where you will go.

However, your leadership is more than preparing people to do ministry. **It is discipling them into a growing relationship with Christ.** It is also leading them to be involved in prayer and service in what God is doing cross-culturally throughout the world. The priority for your team should almost always be more on what God wants to do *in you* (and your team) through this experience.

“Beginning every day with prayer as a team made such a difference. We were prepared for everything that we encountered.”

The Leader Himself

The most important characteristic of a good team leader is not to be a great teacher, a great facilitator, or even a spiritual giant, but rather one who is a **Learner**.

A Learner Learns:

....From God

“If any one lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault and it will be given to him.” James 1:5(NIV).

You must seek God for His plans for the trip. They will be greater than what you might think. You undoubtedly will have a relationship link to the person or persons whom you will serve on the mission. You will need to seek God as to how you can best serve and love them and build relationships of caring and trust. Seek God daily for greater understanding, love and sensitivity to your host culture and the people there.

Also, ask God to bring together the “laborers” that will make up your team (Matt. 9:38). Seek Him to teach you about each team member, to recognize and best utilize their spiritual gifts and maximize the ministry opportunities both to and through your team.

....About God

“I will make you a light to the Gentiles (nations, peoples) so that you may bring My salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Isa. 41:6, NIV).

Knowing God comes best through experiencing Him. The cross-cultural adventure allows us to know God in a global context. Seek God to know His heart for you, your team and your mission.

....About Team Members

Learning about team members translates into being a servant. A servant is more than one responding to commands; he is one who anticipates needs.

“Pray and leave the results to God. That was our motto and the trip achieved more than we could

It is the responsibility of the team leader to learn about his/her team members - how are they gifted and how God wants to grow and stretch them spiritually and personally. As the team leader, I must ask, “how can I encourage them, guide them, stretch them, and befriend them in an individualized manner?”

....About the host culture and ministry

The better your understanding of your host culture, the

*have
imagined.”*

host ministry and its people, the better servants you and your team will be.

Utilize all the information your host contact can provide in preparation. Then augment that with information from Operation World, the World Christian Encyclopedia, and host culture websites.

....About Submission

“Each of you should not only look to your own interest, but also to the interest of others.” (Phil. 2:4, NIV).

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Eph. 5:19 NIV).

It is easy to think, “I am the leader. Why do I need to submit?” Your submission starts with the Lord, continues with the leadership of FBC, your host ministry and finally with mutual submission among your team.

One of the tricky aspects about leading a cross-cultural team is balancing your own desires, each team member’s desires, the host ministry desires, and what’s best for the team. This is only possible if you, the leader, are first fully submitted to Christ.

....About Logistics

The leader must assume numerous administrative logistics in relation to the Outreach/Missions Pastor. These include trip proposal approval, team size and budget, team selection and preparation, training schedule, travel schedule, team itinerary, team finances, support raising, paperwork (passports, visas), insurance, host ministry interaction, and a host of details.

Follow closely the trips “to do” list and timeline responsibilities. Some things you may delegate but you are responsible that they get done.

....to delegate

Look for the abilities of your team members. When you

learn their gifts, personally give them opportunities to exercise them. “Two are better than one” so develop where possible co-leaders and delegate responsibility of different tasks to others.

....Whether I have what it takes to lead

Don't worry whether you are able and qualified to do everything well. You aren't and can't but God can.

Better questions are:

Would I want to be under my leadership?

Do I handle the unexpected well?

Do I adapt to different cultures and circumstances well?

Am I a learner, a servant?

Do I desire to develop and disciple others?

....What are my tasks?

The team (trip) leader is responsible to recruit team members, be in touch with field personnel, handle travel arrangements, provide for the training and debriefing of team members, disburse funds designated for the trip and maintain financial records, provide on-site leadership, and insure that all aspects of the trip are in accordance with the FBC Missions policy. Any of these tasks can be delegated to other team members with the understanding that the trip leader is ultimately responsible for these outcomes.

The trip leader is also responsible to provide the Missions Pastor with a detailed day-by-day itinerary with contact names and phone/fax numbers.

Support raising should begin right away for short-term teams. The FBCIT finance office will set up a special account for each trip, against which expenses for the trip (including travel costs and material expenses) will be drawn.

Personal support checks may be made payable to *First*

Baptist Church and will be deposited in the trip account.

The Missions Pastor is available for counsel concerning support raising. Accurate financial records must be kept by each trip leader.

....What are my rewards?

“You know you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving.” Colossians 3:24(NIV). Souls for God and changed hearts!