

PACIFIC2NATIONS – Mission Training

Planning a Short-term Missions Team

Planning Timeline

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

- Decide: Missions Agency vs. Independent
- Decide: Location & Dates
- Calculate an approximate Budget
- Agree with Missions Committee/Team
- Who will lead the team?
- What type of ministry?

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

- Publicity Content
 - Description
 - Target Group
 - Training Schedule
 - Application Process
- Publicity Ideas
 - Church Publication
 - Brochure
 - Info meetings
 - Testimonies/Videos

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

- Application Process (& Deadline)
- Selecting the Team
- Formally inform applicants (it's OK to turn down applications, but explain why)

Step 4: Team Training Phase (4 months prior to departure)

- Team Building & Training
 - Use appropriate resources or curriculum to cover all essential aspects
 - Invite guest speakers with prior experience in-country or with necessary gifts; skills

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

- Organise Committed Senders
 - Sunday school classes
 - Special prayer meetings
 - Mission's night/ dinner
- Organise a Commissioning Service

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Step 6: Missions Project Phase (on the field)

- Maintain the prayer momentum!
 - Intercessors; prayer teams
- Ministry Training
 - Be prepared, for greater effectiveness
- Team Devotions & Debriefing
 - Start and end the day well

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

- Debrief the Team
 - Follow-Through (not Follow-Up!)
 - Identify local Cross-Cultural Projects
- Report to sending church
 - Share [honest] testimonies
- Final accounting & Summary
 - Produce accurate expense reports
 - Demonstrate accountability & integrity

7 Standards of Excellence

1 GOD-CENTREDNESS

An excellent short-term mission seeks first God's glory and his kingdom, and is expressed through our:

- 1.1 Purpose — Centred on God's glory and his ends throughout our entire STM process.
- 1.2 Lives — Sound biblical doctrine, persistent prayer, and godliness in all our thoughts, words, and deeds.
- 1.3 Methods — Wise, biblical, and culturally-appropriate methods which bear spiritual fruit.

2 EMPOWERING PARTNERSHIPS

An excellent short-term mission establishes healthy, interdependent, on-going relationships between sending and receiving partners, and is expressed by:

- 2.1 Primary focus on intended recipients
- 2.2 Plans which benefit all participants
- 2.3 Mutual trust and accountability

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3 MUTUAL DESIGN

An excellent short-term mission collaboratively plans each specific outreach for the benefit of all participants, and is expressed by:

- 3.1 On-field methods and activities aligned to long-term strategies of the partnership.
- 3.2 Goer-guests' ability to implement their part of the plan.
- 3.3 Host receivers' ability to implement their part of the plan.

4 COMPREHENSIVE ADMINISTRATION

An excellent short-term mission exhibits integrity through reliable set-up and thorough administration for all participants, and is expressed by:

- 4.1 Truthfulness in promotion, finances, and reporting results.
- 4.2 Appropriate risk management.
- 4.3 Quality program delivery and support logistics.

5 QUALIFIED LEADERSHIP

An excellent short-term mission screens, trains, and develops capable leadership for all participants, and is expressed by:

- 5.1 Character — Spiritually mature servant leadership.
- 5.2 Skills — Prepared, competent, organized, and accountable leadership.
- 5.3 Values — empowering and equipping leadership.

6 APPROPRIATE TRAINING

An excellent short-term mission prepares and equips all participants for the mutually designed outreach, and is expressed by:

- 6.1 Biblical, appropriate, and timely training.
- 6.2 On-going training and equipping (pre-field, on-field, post-field).
- 6.3 Qualified trainers.

7 THOROUGH FOLLOW-THROUGH

An excellent short-term mission assures evaluation, debriefing and appropriate follow-up for all participants, and is expressed by:

- 7.1 Comprehensive debriefing of all participants (pre-field, on-field, post-field)
- 7.2 Thoughtful and appropriate follow-through for goer-guests
- 7.3 On-field and post-field evaluation among sending and receiving partners