

Short Term Missions at Faith Bible Church



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What is Short Term Missions (STM)?

Definition:

“Short-term missions is any outreach beyond the normal ministries of the church in which trained volunteers help missions or outreach ministries related to Faith Bible Church with specific goals over a relatively short range of time (usually a few days to a few months).”

The A-B-Cs

A - Short Term

From a brief field visit of one to two days to an extended internship or training opportunity which could last as long as two years.

Most STMs are ministry oriented
one to three weeks duration

B - Missions

Missions Ministry primarily oriented to cross-cultural ministries related to Faith Bible Church’s international workers or network of known ministries

C - Ownership

Ownership --it is a ministry of our church

FBC sponsors, initiates, and/or approves FBC STMS for our church family.

Who initiates an STM ministry?

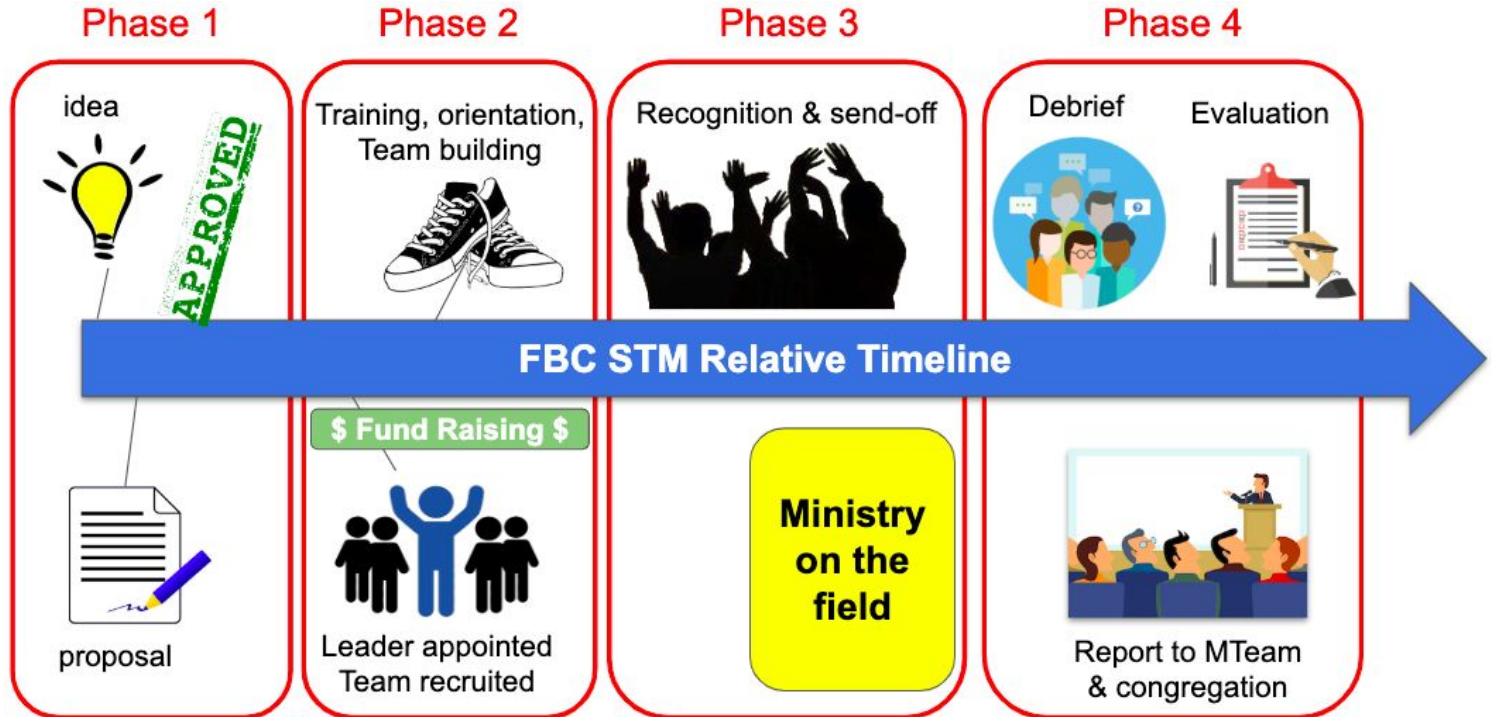
FBC does, through:

- Our international workers
- Our Missions Team
- Our supported ministries for training or survey trips to specific fields

FBC members who say:

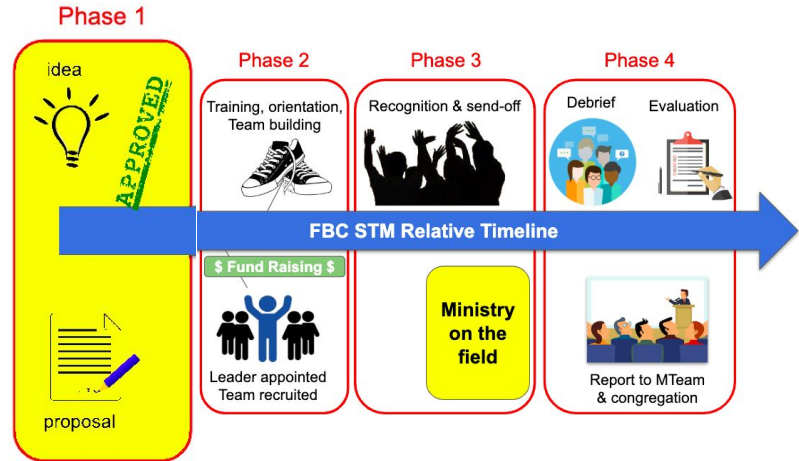
- “I want to use my special skills and availability “, e.g. - medical, first aid/ EMT clinic, construction, TESL/TEFL, technology, business, first-responder, agriculture, home-schooling, nanny/governess, etc.
- “I want to serve and see the mission field with others”
- “I want to get more directly involved in missions with our missionaries”
- “I’d like to go on my own to do something specific to my interests and opportunities”

STM Process



Phase 1

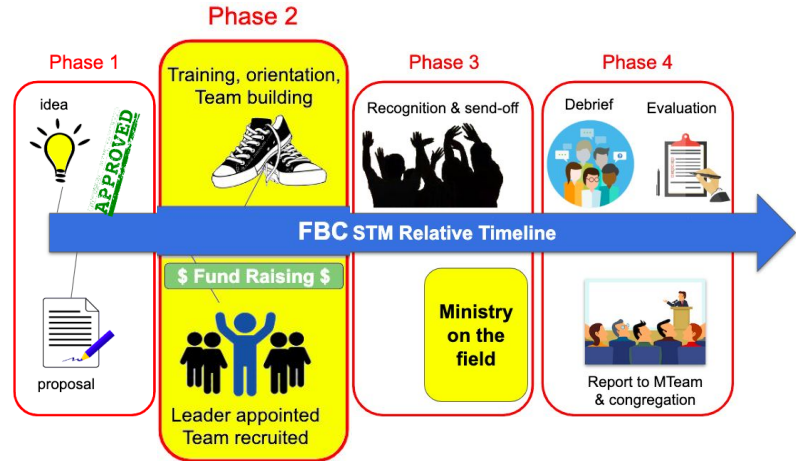
- IDEA - you'd like to pursue and get FBC participation and ownership
- PROPOSAL - YOU fill out the Proposal Form* and submit to the Missions Team
- APPROVAL - Proposal gets approved and ready to move forward with implementation



*Sample Proposal Form can be found in the “Supplemental Documentation” section

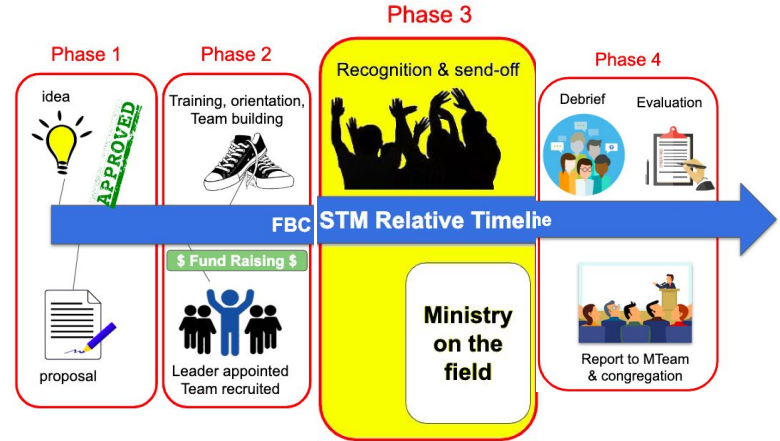
Phase 2

- LEADER APPOINTED, TEAM RECRUITED
- Required TRAINING ... the DR STM does 15 weeks!, smaller teams, less time
- FUNDING - not from FBC subsidy: self, letters, events, projects, etc.



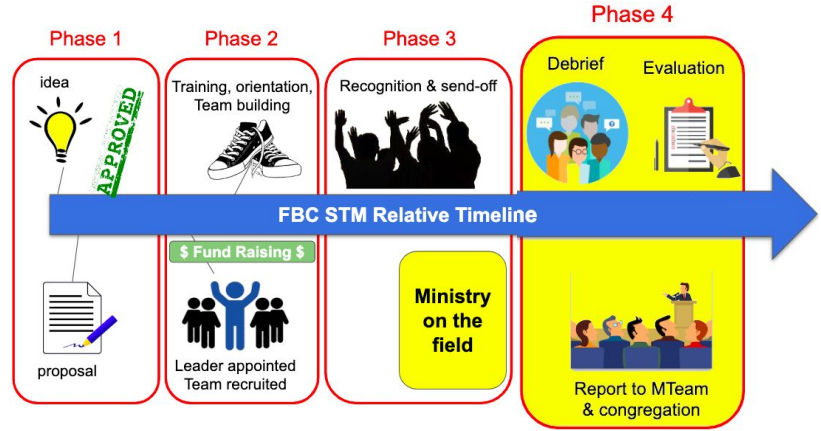
Phase 3

- SEND-OFF - recognition, ongoing prayer, FBC in your backpack
- FIELD MINISTRY - “Win-Win-Win” for the participant, hosts, ministry target group (leaving a legacy of grace), daily devotions, journaling



Phase 4

- DEBRIEF - recognition, ongoing prayer, FBC in your backpack
- REPORTING - to leadership, Missions Team, congregation, supporters
- EVALUATION - Do again, or not?, Do better?, All aspects evaluation



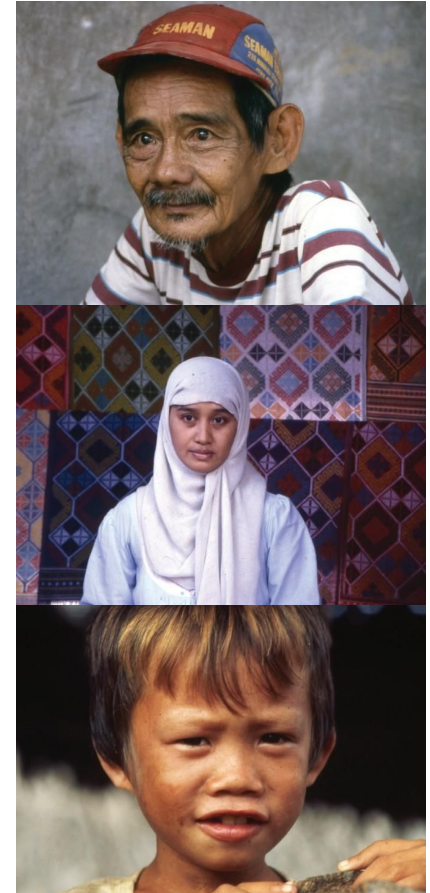
STM Philosophy

- Win-Win-Win - The recipients or beneficiaries of the STM ministry, the local ministry leader or worker or hosts, the participants, and a reciprocal benefit to FBC through the discipleship growth and increased commitment and participation of the participants in FBC local church ministries.
- Clear Ministry Goals, not just physical assistance - Each STM Team/Project should be designed to provide meaningful ministry assistance and /or encouragement corresponding to FBC's ministry goals in that target location.
- Feature mission and relational partners - Each STM should feature missions through its leadership example, team goals, daily devotions, interactions with hosts and recipients. With a desire/outcome of creating relational partnerships with our mission partners.
- Result in spiritual growth of the participants - Each STM should provide target-ministry appropriate leadership, orientation, and discipleship for its participants.
- Fund-raising responsibility, not budgetary allotment - As a participant, you are responsible to raise financial support. This can be done through letters, fund-raising events, projects.
- Not grow STM junkies - but increasing depth and duration of missions involvement creating the desire to intentionally moving from brand new participant to a career commitment

STM Training

Sample session content can be adjusted based on team size, trip duration, etc.

- Session 1: Getting acquainted with team members; describing the vision for the trip including longer-term impact on the individual participants; expectations of participants before, during, and after the trip; pre-field paperwork; training/orientation for support raising; and, cultural awareness diagnostic
- Session 2: Cultural research presentations; obstacles to effectiveness; and, team building exercises
- Session 3: Proper attitudes, spiritual emphasis, culture shock, understanding their culture and differences; and, beginning language learning/preparation
- Session 4: Personal preparation for ministry (humility, working with interpreters, preparing testimony, language skills, specific ministry roles - e.g. teaching, construction, etc.)



STM Training (continued)

- Session 5: Team building (including dealing with authority, conflict resolution, team decision making); ministry preparation (specific to this STM Project, sharing personal testimonies); team-building simulations, and review of team policies, dress code, etc.
- Session 6: Living sacrificially, travel conduct, jet lag issues; Travel specifics like customs, airport behavior, travel in host location, what to do if separated, contingency plans and briefing, Luggage procedures, team leader should have copies of all passports, emergency contact info, insurance info; Bring packed luggage to session 7 for inventory, weighing, adjustments
- Session 7: Weigh and inventory personal luggage, team identification strings/tags, etc, pack ministry materials: count, label, inventory contents; Verify tickets, reflect on servanthood, family and friends prayer time.



Start Praying & Talking About It

It begins with an idea or desire for servanthood, vision-building, or an opportunity to use your special skill and experience to help the cause of FBC international ministries. Pray about it. Talk to the Missions Team. Talk to our STM Coordinator. Let's find out together if your idea is feasible, desirable on the field, the costs and timing involved.

Our present policy requires STM participants to come up with their own funding, individually and as a team. Often STM participation involves some sacrifice in terms of time spent in training and going, including using your personal time off or vacation. The leadership of an STM Team/Project ratchets those costs up, as well.

Supplemental Documentation

- Sample STM Proposal Form
- Team Leader Responsibilities
- Past STMs from FBC; Present Missions Team members
- These and more documentation can be found on the FBC website (www.faithbiblechurch.us). Look for “About Us” and select “Documents and Policies”



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Proposal for an FBC Short Term Missions Project

Overview:

1. Describe the proposed nature of this STM trip:
2. What are the projected dates?
3. How does this proposed STM trip related to Faith Bible Church ministries?
4. Who would be the proposed team leader?
5. Who are the proposed participants? i.e. Youth?, Adult only?, Men only?, Families?, Mixed age & gender?, etc.

FBC Values & Purposes: (use other pages, as necessary)

1. In what ways will this STM ministry benefit:
 - a. The field ministry or people intended to be served
 - b. The local ministry worker and/or hosts
 - c. The STM participants
 - d. Faith Bible Church
2. How does this STM propose to make a positive contribution to the host ministry?
3. How will this STM seek to result in spiritual growth of the participants?
4. In what practical ways will this STM seek to be of encouragement to the local ministry?
5. Describe the timeline for training, preparation and ideas for fund-raising along with a project budget

STM Proposal Form

Team Leader Responsibilities

- Complete and fill out Proposal Form
- Once approved complete the STM Application
- Team selection
- Regular status reporting to the Missions Team
- Managing Team Training and Training Resources
- Communication with field hosts and logistics
- Acquiring and recording of records required by FBC and specific STM opportunity (e.g. passports, legal docs., permissions, visas, schedule

Past STMs from FBC

ESL France

Construction - remodeling in France

West Point Military Academy OCF outreach

Haiti orphanage assistant

Haiti earthquake relief/devel. management

Vision trips to Tunisia

Seminary teaching: Ukraine, Croatia, E. Asia

Books & other delivery to workers in E. Asa

M. worker care visits on all our fields

Biennial Youth STM to D.R.

IT/computer support to workers in France

Present Missions Team

John & Lynn Crotts

Jose & Millie Depeña

Chuck & Suzanne Buchanan

Jamey & Lisa Hammock

Martin & Linda Wesche

Joe & Toni Saba

Emily Depeña

Jordan & Erin Walter

David & Kathy Meade