

Training Session 1

Answering God's Call

[6 - 8 months before departure date]

Goal: Begin building a team committed to answering God's call to mission service.

Note to Leader: Be sure to prepare for this first session by completing the steps outlined in the section at the front of this guide called: *Team Leader Preparation: What you need to do BEFORE the first Team Training Session.*

At a Glance

TIME	TOPIC	MATERIALS
30 min.	Introductions Leadership team All team members	Name tags
30 min.	Growing in the Word God's heart for the world Memorize: Psalms 66:5 Pray	Bibles
40 min.	Training Exercises GOD'S principles for successful STM trips Prayer is essential	<i>GOD'S Principles for Successful STM Trips</i>
15 min.	Logistics Information on the trip Expectations & commitments Get ready for our next session	<i>Trip Info Sheet</i> <i>Training Session Schedule</i> <i>Why Do I Want to Go?</i> <i>My Story (Testimony)</i>
5 min.	Closing Prayer Fellowship time	



Introductions 30 min.

Getting to know one another

The mission of American Baptist International Ministries is to glorify God in all the earth by crossing cultural boundaries to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Our desire is to see people come to Christ, grow in Christ, and change their world with Christ.

1. As people arrive, ask them to write the name they'd like to be called on their name tag. If they already know one another, ask them to get with a partner and tell that person why they want to go on this trip.
2. Sing together.
If possible, ask someone from the team to lead the singing. (e.g. I Will Enter His Gates, You're Worthy of My Praise, Open the Eyes of My Heart, Open Our Eyes Lord)
3. Ask the leadership team to introduce themselves by name, sharing their experience with STMs.
4. Briefly explain the role of each person on the leadership team.
5. Ask the group to form pairs. Have each person describe a favorite family vacation to their partner without using words. Provide as much detail as possible *without speaking or writing on paper*. (2 min. per person). Alternatively, you might ask the partners to describe as many details as possible about their favorite kind of pizza (toppings, kind of crust, brand, when to eat it, how much it costs, etc.).
6. Have each person describe their partners' favorite vacation to the whole team. The partner may clarify or correct only *after* the presenter finishes.

Dig deeper

1. What happened during this exercise? [lots of gesturing, grunts & groans, laughter]
2. What were some of the feelings that you experienced? [amusement, frustration]
3. What does this tell us about communicating in an unfamiliar way? What's the lesson for learning the language of _____ (the destination country)? [We can be easily misunderstood; communicating in an unfamiliar way requires a lot of effort and a good sense of humor!]

Growing in the Word 30 min.

God's heart for the world

- Discover God's plan for humanity from Genesis to Revelation. Ask groups of two or three people to look up Scriptures from the list below (divide up the list among the groups):
 - Genesis 12:1-3 – all peoples on earth will be blessed through you
 - 1 Chronicles 16:23-34 – declare God's glory among the nations
 - Psalms 67:1-2 – that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations
 - Isaiah 56:6-7 – my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations
 - Matthew 9: 35-38 – Jesus had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd
 - Matthew 25:34-45 – whatever you did for one of the least of these ...you did for me
 - Matthew 28:18-20 – “Go!” – the Great Commission
 - Luke 4:16-19 – he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor
 - John 20:19-23 – “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you”
 - Acts 1:8 – you will be my witnesses
 - Revelation 7:9 – there...was a great multitude...from every nation, tribe, people and language
- Based on these passages, how would you describe God's mission in the world? Again, based on these verses, what does God expect of us? How does our STM trip fit into the big picture of what God wants us to be doing?
- Have the groups share their thoughts with the whole team. Record the ideas on the blackboard or flip chart.
- The Main Point:** Reaching out to others with God's love in word and deed (mission) is not just an idea that God thought up at the end of Jesus' life! The Great Commission was God's idea right from the beginning of time. God blesses us so that we in turn can bless others. Our loving service and proclamation will draw others to God.

Memorize: Psalms 67:1-2

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, [Selah] that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

Pray!



“... He (God) who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

Logistics 15 min.

Information on the trip

1. Discuss the basic information about the trip using the info sheet you've prepared. [See *Trip Info Sheet* at the end of this section.]
2. Answer questions related to the basic info on the handout, but ask people to hold the detail questions for later (e.g. "Can I wear shorts?" "Are there mosquitoes?" "What time do we need to be at the airport?"). We will go over specific details during a later session (e.g. What to pack, meeting times, project plans, etc.)

Expectations & commitments

1. Review the schedule between now and the departure date [see *Training Sessions Schedule* at the end of this section and fill in the dates of your team sessions.]
2. Ask team members to identify the commitments that they expect from one another as a team [e.g. come to EVERY team session unless you have an emergency, pray for one another, be patient with each other, encourage one another, etc.].

Get ready for our next team session

1. Distribute the *Why Do I Want to Go?* questionnaire for next team session. [See handout at the end of this section.]
2. Ask team members to prepare their personal testimony for the next team session [see *My Story (Testimony)* at the end of this section.]
3. Let the team know that they can find a list of suggested readings for STM teams on the IM web site at:
www.internationalministries.org/go

Closing prayer 5 min.

[Allow for fellowship time at the end of the session – serve simple snacks.]

Note to Leadership Team: Please see the *Timeline for Preparing/ Submitting Documents* (see p. 104 in *Additional Information* section). That will help you keep track of which form needs to be submitted by what date.

GOD'S Principles for Successful STM Trips

God is the Head of the Mission Program

- You are not taking God to this place, rather God is taking you! (Gen. 12:1-3; Ps. 139:1-10; Matt. 28:18-20)
- God has been at work in this place long before you arrived. (Rom. 2:14-15; Rom. 5:8)
- God has a plan for this community, this people, this person. (Jer. 29:11; 1 Tim. 2:3-5; 2 Pet. 3:9)
- Follow God's lead, not yours. (Ps. 25:1-5; Is. 42:16)
- God will always be with you. (Matt. 28:20b; Rom. 8:38-39; Heb. 13:5)

Remember—
It's God's
mission!

Open Heart, Open Hands

- An open heart is free to be filled by the Holy Spirit and overflow with love. (John 14:15-17; Acts 13:2-4; Rom. 5:3-5)
- An open heart is free to be broken by the injustice and poverty of the world. (Deut. 15:7-8; Ps. 9:18; Ps. 82:3-4; Gal. 2:10)
- An open hand is ready to receive.
- An open hand is a sign of good will and humility. (Gal. 5:22-23)
- An open hand cannot clutch a clock, a schedule, a shovel or a stereotype.

Doing is Less Important than Being

- Be like Jesus, walk as Jesus walked. (1 John 2:6; Matt. 5:1-16; John 15:1-14)
- Be human beings not human doings! (1 Thess. 5:11)
- Focus on people, not just on the task. (1 John 3:18)
- Work on building relationships, not monuments. (Rom. 12:9-15)
- Take a deep breath when things don't start or end on time; there are more important things in life than sticking to a schedule.
- Be flexible – things will rarely go as you planned. (Phil. 4:4-7)

A Servant's Heart

- Learn from your hosts; honor them and God by serving them. (John 13:12-17).
- Find out what your host prays for and then commit to praying for it, too. (James 5:16)
- Accept the leadership of your hosts. You are not the one in charge.
- Practice humility! (Luke 22:24-27; James 4:10)
- There are many ways of doing things; yours is only one way and it may not be right for this time or place.
- Be adaptable – try new things, set aside biases and work on fitting into the culture.
- Be a “trusted representative” of Jesus Christ in what you do and say. (Matt. 24:45-46; Eph. 3:7-8; 2 Tim. 2:24; James 1:1)

Trip Info Sheet

Where exactly are we going? (name and location of ministry)

e.g. The Dios Con Nosotros Seminary, Mexicali, Mexico

Dates _____

What we hope to do: _____

Describe the ministry or task you plan to do. Example: We will help construct a new classroom at the seminary. We will also serve alongside the local church members in their VBS ministry.

What we hope to accomplish: (the big picture)

Describe the larger purpose of your mission experience. Example: Discover how God is working through the believers in Mexico. Encourage our missionaries and our sisters and brothers in Mexico and learn from them. Encourage our church family back home to pray for and support mission ministry.

How much will it cost? _____

Include a payment schedule. The first few payments should cover the plane ticket by time of reservation/purchase at three to four months before the trip. Include a note that the price of the trip is subject to change due to inflation or other reasons.

Who is in charge and how to contact them: _____

Describe how to apply for the trip and who the leaders are. Tell where to send the registration form and payments – include the address and phone number. Include a note that says: checks should be made out to _____ and sent to:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Training Session Schedule

Date/Time/Place	Session
_____	Training Session 1 Answering God’s Call (6 - 8 months before departure date)
_____	Training Session 2 Building Your Team (5 – 6 months before departure date)
_____	Training Session 3 Breaking Down the Walls Between Us (4 months before departure date)
_____	Training Session 4 Seeing with New Eyes: God is the Head of the Mission Program (3 – 4 months before departure date)
_____	Training Session 5 Open Heart, Open Hands (3 months before departure date)
_____	Training Session 6 Walking as Jesus Walked: Doing is Less Important than Being (2 months before departure date)
_____	Training Session 7 God is with Us (2 – 4 weeks before departure date)
_____	Training Session 8 A Servant’s Heart (7 – 10 days before departure date)

Why Do I Want to Go?

Prayerfully ask God whether you should go on this short-term mission trip. If the answer is “no,” don’t push your own agenda. Wait for God’s “go signal” – maybe next year’s STM trip is the one God has in mind for you. If the answer is “yes,” then go ahead and answer the questions below.

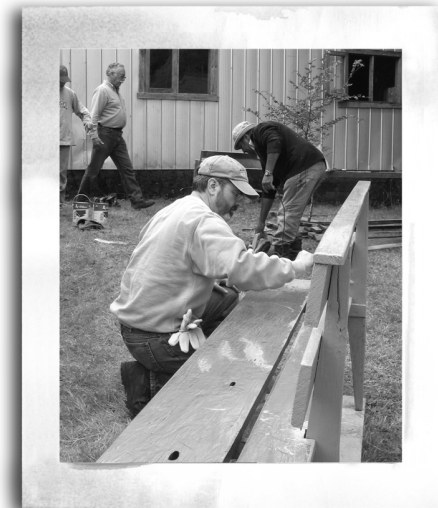
1. Why I want to be a part of this short-term mission team:

2. My goals for the trip are to:

3. The concerns that are on my mind include:

4. What I think I can contribute to the team:

5. What I expect to learn:



My Story (Testimony)

1. How my life was before Christ (where I focused most of my energy; where I found security). Or: My attitude and behavior before I made a commitment to really follow Jesus.

2. How and why I asked Jesus to be my Lord and Savior; what the Good News means to me. Or, describe your commitment to the Lord.

3. How my life is different since I received Christ; how Jesus changed my attitude and behavior; how I know God is real (share this as if you're writing a thank you note to God).

