

The Impact of Short-Term Mission Teams

So who reaps the benefit of short-term ministry teams?

1. THE TEAM MEMBER –

It has been observed by many that ministry projects are more for the benefit of the individual than for the hosting group. This is probably true in the short run, but when it comes to long term benefits for the world-wide body of Christ, those who have been a part of short-term ministry teams are playing and will play a strategic role. As a matter of fact, 80% of today's Christian workers and missionaries have been a part of a short-term ministry team experience! (Dana Bromley, STEM Int'l) Some of the benefits for Team Members:

- a) **Spiritual life building experience.**
- b) **Seeing that missionaries/pastors are real people.**
- c) **Trusting God in new areas through support raising.**
- d) **Leading the way for missions causes back home.**
- e) **Becoming an effective sender of others.**
- f) **Support, encouragement and building up of the local church.**
- g) **Considering God's Call to ministry/missions.**
- h) **An appreciation of your own culture.**

2. THE SENDERS –

The home church or other sending organization that sends out individuals or Teams benefit in a variety of ways from Short-Term Mission Team participation. Many times those who support a Team with their prayers and finances extend far beyond the walls of that church organization.

Benefits for individual supporters:

- a) **Impacting people vicariously through the team.**
- b) **Growing spiritually through their praying and giving.**

- c) **Considering going themselves the next time.**
- d) **Having the experience of being a part of God's global work.**

Benefits for the church or organization:

- a) **Enlarging their vision through cross-cultural opportunities.**
- b) **Having personal ownership in going to "the ends of the earth" discipleship.**
- c) **Creating on-going relationships with believers in another place.**
- d) **Multiplying their own church's disciple-making efforts.**

3. *THE HOSTS* –

A ministry project is centered on these individuals and their needs as the number one priority. So what benefits can a host missionary, national or pastor hope to reap from a Short-Term Mission Team?:

- a) **Encouragement and affirmation of their work.**
- b) **The possibility of a long-term relationship with the Team Members and their sending entity that will have financial as well as prayer-oriented ramifications.**
- c) **A project accomplished that without the Team's presence would not have been possible, at least at that time.**
- d) **Laborers and finances for specific projects.**
- e) **The opportunity to be God's instrument in calling someone to career ministry or missionary service; to multiply their own work.**