

Grace Bible Church

Short-Term Global Outreach and Short Term Ministry Teams

Grace Bible Church recognizes 2 levels of short-term workers:

Level 1 = 2wks - 3 months (Short Term Ministry Teams -- STMT)

Level 2 = 4 months to 2 years (Short Term Global Outreach -- STGO)

Short-Term Global Outreach (STGO)

1. Definitions: STGO speaks of a person or family making a 4mth to 2 year commitment to serve in a particular capacity in a particular field of service whether home or abroad. They consider this commitment a vital step in preparing for a career in cross-cultural ministry life at home as a World Christian.
2. Purpose: STGO Candidates see their service as a means of serving God in the ministry of global outreach, learning first-hand what global outreach is really all about, and of determining if God is calling them into career global outreach.
3. Candidates are urged to plan ahead. They need to plan at least 12 months in advance. This will give them time to find support, get immunizations, passports, etc.
4. Personal qualifications:
 - a. An active and obvious commitment to Jesus Christ,
 - b. A member of GBC in good standing.
 - c. Willingness to consider serving full time in career missions,
 - d. Approval by parents for candidates under 18 years old,
 - e. Be working on spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, evangelism, and fellowship,
 - f. Acceptance by a mission agency/church/organization approved by Grace Bible Church,
 - g. Pre-field orientation and preparation from the mission agency/church/organization.
 - h. Credit card debts all paid up.

5. Requirements for STOG Candidates:

- a. STGO candidates must fill out the Grace Bible Church STGO application form and present it to the Global Outreach Committee for consideration before departure for the field, preferably three months in advance. They must read and agree with the doctrinal statement and Global Outreach policy of Grace Bible Church.
- b. They must meet with the Global Outreach Committee prior to their departure or agree to an interview over the phone.
- c. They must agree to give a report to the Global Outreach Committee and/or to the congregation of Grace Bible Church within three months of their return.
- d. As God directs, the Global Outreach Committee may consider support of people who are not members of Grace Bible Church and who meet these qualifications.
- f. Pre-field orientation and preparation from their agency/church/organization and / or completion of Grace Bible Church's STGO Training course.
- g. All STGO partner candidates seeking support from Grace Bible Church must complete the following courses/classes. One or more of these classes may be waived if similar classes have been taken at a Bible College or conference (i.e., Peacemakers, Financial Peace University, etc.).
 - 1) Building Marriages God's Way
 - 2) Responding to Conflict Biblically (Peacemakers)
 - 3) Financial Peace University
 - 4) Fundamentals of the Faith

6. Expectations

- a. What should a STGO Candidate expect from Grace Bible Church?
 - 1) Prayer support for them and their families, The Global Outreach Committee, meetings of International Harvesters and other church meetings. We will include any special requests in the monthly "Call to Prayer" (distributed in the bulletin).
 - 2) Financial assistance.
 - 3) Consistent communication. We will update our missions display when we receive updated newsletters, etc. from them. If requested, we will send

any of Pastor Bryan's messages or church bulletins to them. We would also like to meet with them whenever they are in Bozeman (if time permits).

- 4) Practical assistance – if a STGO partners needs housing, transportation, furniture, etc., while on home assignment, or other kinds of needs while on the field, we will attempt to meet those needs.
 - 5) Hold an annual global outreach conference in February and pick a project to support for one of our global outreach partners each year.
- b. What does Grace Bible Church expect from a Short Term Global Outreach Partner?
- 1) Consistent communication. We should hear from them at least quarterly. It is our desire to know how their ministry is progressing as well as how they are doing personally. They also need to correspond to special committee requests within two weeks if possible. This is of vital importance when we are requesting prayer and financial information.
 - 2) Inform the Global Outreach Committee of any changes in plans for ministry or location or finances. We request they keep us abreast of any special needs.
 - 3) Notification as soon as possible when they will be at Grace Bible Church and for how long.
 - 3) Connection. Short Term Global Partners are encouraged to meet with the Global Outreach Committee whenever they are on home ministry assignment, or whenever they are in the Bozeman area.

Short-Term Ministry Teams (STMT)

1. Definition: Short-term ministry teams usually consist of two or more people sent to come alongside existing ministries / global outreach partners for the purpose of assisting with a special project whether medical, construction, teaching or encouragement. Most of these ministries are from two weeks to three months and are considered a vital step in preparing individuals to consider missions as a career whether at home as a World Christian.
2. Purpose and Objectives

Grace Bible Church's STM Teams have been developed for the purpose of partnering with our existing global outreach partners and ministries in our desire to see Nations glorify our Father in Heaven and experience the joy of knowing Christ as their Lord and Savior. **They have as their primary objectives:**

- a. To serve in complementation to the long-term strategies of making disciples of Jesus Christ cross-culturally, and most importantly among unreached or least reached peoples, resulting in church planting, church growth, and evangelism among specific people groups,
- b. To serve as a spring board for team members becoming long-term participants in sending, giving and going,
- c. To help assist our existing missionaries and ministries in carrying out the mission God has given them to do.

3. Location/Priority

The location and make-up of our **STMT's** are influenced by the expressed need and vision of the national hosts and our workers in that particular field or region of the world.

Where and when our teams serve will be determined by the following priorities:

- a. Current GBC Global Outreach Partners involved in ministry among unreached or least-evangelized peoples.
- b. Current GBC Global Outreach Partners involved in language work, church planting, mobilization of nationals for missions and ministering to missionaries on the field.
- c. Christian outreach ministries of a likeminded faith who are involved in similar work and meet the standards of the ECFA or IFMA.
- d. Our priority will be evident through annual availability, frequency, length of trips, size of teams, broad focus of ministry and financial support.

4. **Criteria for STMT Project/Ministry Selection**

- a. **STMT Request forms will be sent upon request from our partners (see appendix A). The request form must be complete, detailed, and show relevance of the team's role to the outreach partner's ministry.**
- b. **Partners sent out from Grace Bible Church will be given preference over all requests.**
- c. **Generally, Grace Bible Church partners will only receive one approved team per year. Other church members are welcome to help that same outreach partner, but the church will not officially sponsor them.**
- d. **Grace Bible Church sponsored projects as well as non-Grace Bible Church**

ministries must be in accord with church doctrine, priorities, and the overall vision of the Elders and Global Outreach Committee.

- e. Within any given year, an attempt should be made to include a variety of ministries such as teaching English, evangelism, leadership development, construction, music, children's ministries, direct ministry to missionaries (i.e. conferences), medical, etc.
 - f. Those projects that hold the greatest potential for spiritual ministry to people will receive the highest priority. Humanitarian projects must display a clear linkage to such ministry in order for them to be considered and approved.
5. Personal qualifications:
- a. An active and obvious commitment to Jesus Christ,
 - b. Willingness to consider serving full time in career missions,
 - c. Approval by parents for candidates under 18 years old,
 - d. Be working on spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, evangelism, and fellowship,
 - e. Credit card debts all paid up. [Exceptions are on an individual basis.]
6. Requirements for **STMT Candidates**:
- a. **STMT** candidates must fill out the Grace Bible Church preliminary application form and present it to **the Global Outreach Committee** for consideration before departure for the field, preferably **four** months. They must read and agree with the doctrinal statement and **global outreach** policy of Grace Bible Church.
 - b. **They must meet with the Global Outreach Pastor prior to their departure.**
 - c. **They must agree to fill out the team and ministry evaluation form and submit it to the Pastor of Global Outreach within one month of their return.**
 - d. As God directs, the **Global Outreach** Committee may consider support of people who are not members of Grace Bible Church and who meet these qualifications.
 - e. Married women or single parents with small children will be considered on an individual basis. Normally, individuals in one of these categories would be discouraged from being gone over two weeks.
 - f. Pre-field orientation and preparation from the **global outreach** agency / church / organization and/or completion of Grace Bible Church's **STMT course**.

- g. Go through a team debrief and/or an individual debrief with a member of the Global Outreach Team.
- h. Send a note of thanks to those individuals who supported them in prayer and/or financially while part of the short-term team.
- i. Be a part of their Team's report / presentation of their ministry.
- j. Attend all team meetings and complete any assignments or training suggested by GBC or the team leader.
- k. Sign the team covenant statement and also the Peace Maker's Pledge prior to going on their short-term mission.
- l. Any team member that is sick, battling an illness or suffering from an injury or experiencing a significant difficulty (physically, emotionally or mentally) within one to two months prior to the teams departure is required to notify their team leader, the Global Outreach Pastor and the medical personnel assisting our short-term teams. If the team member's condition/situation is such that it could negatively impact the team's effectiveness, they will be asked to stay home.

(These were only slightly changed to reflect their being moved from expectations to requirements.)