Ministry Partnership Assessment

As Team Leaders, when we’re looking toward the beginning of a missions season, one of the first, most important things to do each year is assess the relationship with our partner ministries.

Within Lipscomb Missions, our goal is always to find long-term partners who are doing great ministry, and then build great mission teams that are effective tools in the hands of our partners. We all know that we’re not setting out to save the world during our brief trip, but we do get to contribute to God’s saving work in really amazing ways, adding value to the year-round, dedicated ministry of our partners! To help toward that goal, we’ve outlined some important questions to discuss with your team leadership, your team, and with your ministry partner.

Questions About Purpose

- What is the overall purpose of the ministry that you serve under?
- Do they have something like a “mission statement”, or some official description of their goals and purposes? If so, what is it? Has your team discussed it?
- How do you see your team’s work fitting into the overall goals of your ministry partner?
- As you reflect on past experiences with this ministry (if applicable), did you feel like your team was well utilized and consistent with the ministry’s stated goals?
- What are the ways that you will determine whether your work is a success or not? Is that the same way that your ministry partner defines it?
- Is your team compatible, theologically, with our partner ministry? If there are some important differences in belief or practice, how should our team prepare for encountering those differences?
- Is our relationship with the ministry partner healthy? Have you given them the space to feel able to guide and critique our team’s work, when needed?
- What are the ways your team’s visit might be harmful to our host partner’s ability to minister in ways that might not be immediately obvious?
Questions About Practice

● Has your partner given you a general understanding of what your trip’s schedule and ministry opportunities might look like?

● Have you had the chance to talk yet with your ministry partner at any length about the team’s plans, specifically for this year? (Our ministry partners are often overwhelmed with tasks and communication - how do they prefer to communicate?)

● Is what my team did last year what we need to do this year? Why or Why not?

● Thinking on the last question, how should my team’s make-up and preparation look different this year from last year? Are there specific skills we need to recruit for? Specific circumstances we need to prepare for in special ways?

● How can my team’s work and influence continue to build my ministry partner’s capacity for effective ministry, even once we’re gone?

● What resources might your team have access to that your partner ministry might need, but not know to ask about?

● Without regard to financial limitations- just dreaming, here... what would be the coolest, most amazing thing your team could do during that week, before, or after, to bless your partner ministry?