

# THE GREAT & COMMISSION

## short-term missions

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And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2

Fulfilling the Great Commission involves the

## MULTIPLICATION

of disciples in every nation and people group of the world, yet there are still

**3.2  
BILLION  
PEOPLE**

who have never heard the name of Jesus.

**What role do short-term trips play in fulfilling the Great Commission?**

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Short-term mission trips have the ability to be a catalyst for Great Commission work, but they must be focused on empowering the indigenous Church to participate in the Great Commission.

ITEC has tried and tested five principles that will help your team to empower indigenous Christ followers and see the Gospel go out, even to unreached peoples around the world without creating dependency.

[itecusa.org](http://itecusa.org)



ITEC

# FIVE PRINCIPLES

for having sustainable, long-term  
impact on a short-term trip

## 1. LEARN TO LISTEN

As a dominant culture, we tend to jump in and want to fix perceived problems without listening to the people we think we are trying to help. Oscar Muiru, a Kenyan Pastor said, "Stop coming to try to fix us. We've been "fixed" so many times that we're a real mess now." We need to spend time listening to the indigenous Church in order to hear their perspective.

## 2. UNDERSTAND THE NEED

As you listen, seek to understand what they perceive as the needs within their local and surrounding communities. What we might see as a need will often not be an issue at all for the people.

## 3. BUILD ON WHAT THEY HAVE

People who live in places frequented by short-term teams have more resources than we realize and maybe even more than they realize themselves. The local Christ followers need to have ownership from the start. Ownership requires investment. This may include time, financial resources, and other non-financial investment. Ownership will help to eliminate the potential for dependency and will better ensure that the work will continue after the team departs.

## 4. GO AND TRAIN

There may be people within your church who have skills and abilities that can be passed on to indigenous Christ followers. These skills (such as basic medical care or dental extractions) can be used by the indigenous Church to open doors to the Gospel in their community as well as in unreached areas. We should be asking ourselves what we are leaving behind when we go on short term trips. Visit [itecusa.org](http://itecusa.org) to find out more about the skills we use to train.

## 5. FOLLOW UP

Once your team has gone and trained indigenous Christ followers, you need to empower and release them to do the work. Continue to build an interdependent relationship with those you have trained, and check in periodically to encourage them and to find out if further training may be helpful.