CHANGED
FOR LIFE

GETTING STARTED

HOST
MATERIALS AND HANDOUTS

Kurt Ver Beek, JoAnn Van Engen, David Livermore, Lisa Van Engen

INTRODUCTION

The decision to host a short-term mission (STM) team is not one to make quickly. There is a great burden on the hosts to provide a safe, educational, service-oriented experience. There are a number of factors to take into account.

Goals

✦ To decide if it is a wise decision to host a short-term mission team

Prepare

✦ Read through the Getting Started Host Session.

✦ Spend time talking with the potential STM team leader or agency staff that you will be working with. Use Handout Getting Started 2 as a guide.

Materials

✦ Copies of Getting Started Session Handouts (either paper or electronic)

OPEN

Time: 20 minutes

Open your time with prayer. As a potential host group, ask for God's leading in making a wise decision whether to host a short-term mission team. Pray for clear direction and open discussion.

EXPLORE

As a group, consider the questions in Getting Started 1.

CONNECT

Share Getting Started 2 with your group. Take time to discuss insights from how they respond to the questions. Continue to talk about the partnership and why it may or may not be beneficial to your group and to the STM team.

CLOSE

Ask God to be a part of your decision making. Seek God's wisdom in beginning a partnership with the STM team. Ask for guidance as you grow and learn with one another.

GETTING STARTED 1

Should We Host a Short-term Mission Team?

1. What is our motivation for hosting a short-term mission team?

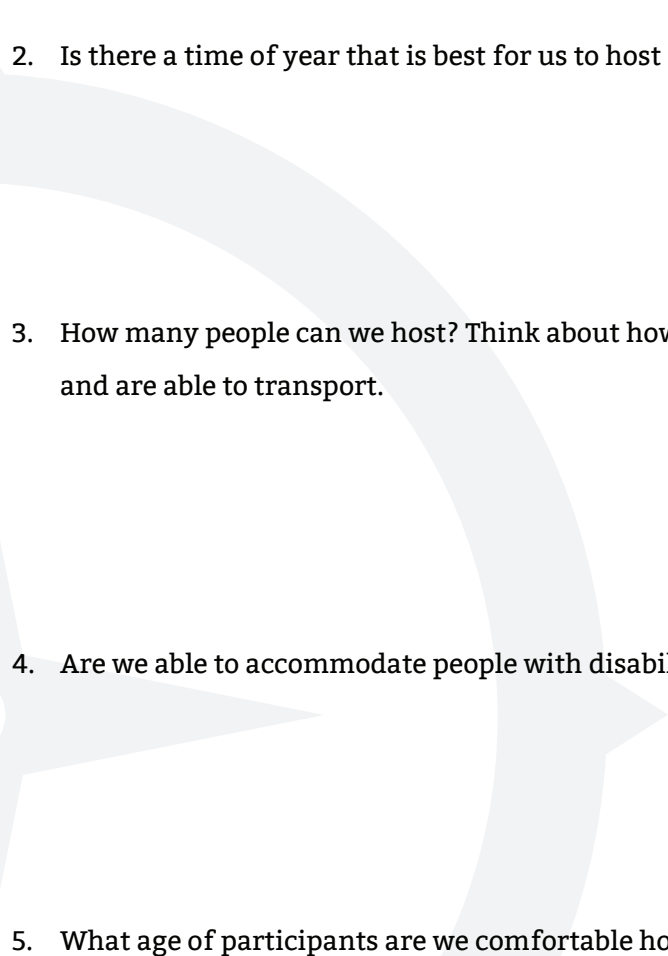2. What can we teach or contribute to a short-term mission team that visits us?

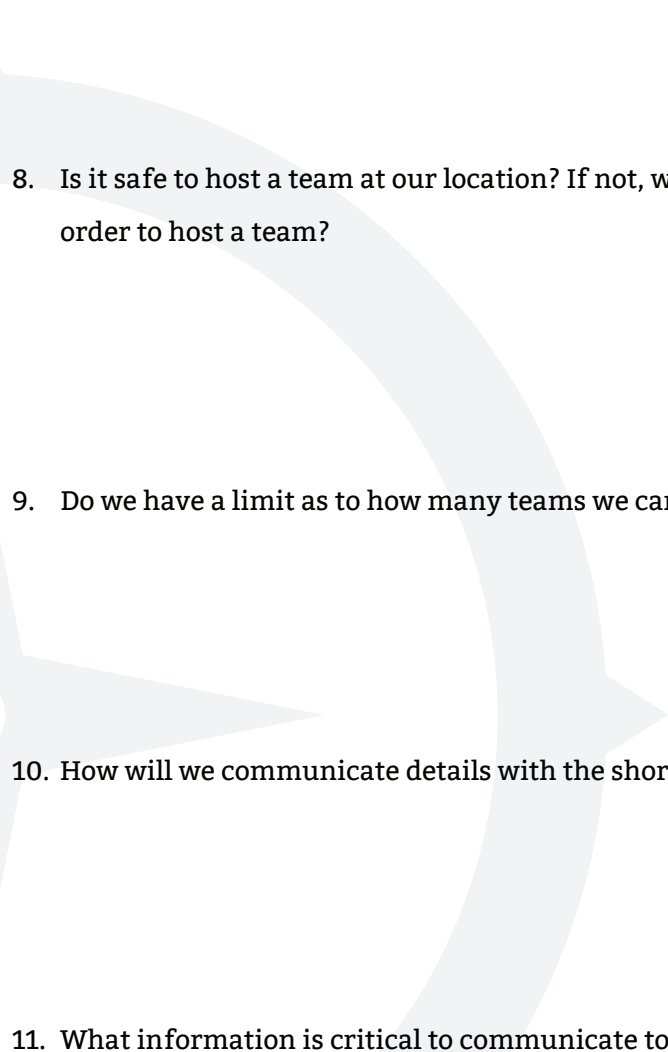3. How could a short-term mission team serve alongside us?

4. Could we achieve our goals without hosting a short-term mission team? How?

5. Additional thoughts

GETTING STARTED 2
Working with Short-Term Mission Teams

1. What kind of relationship would we like to develop with a short-term mission team? Would we like this to develop into a long-term relationship or would we like this to be a short-term relationship?

2. Is there a time of year that is best for us to host a short-term mission team?

3. How many people can we host? Think about how many people you have accommodations for and are able to transport.

4. Are we able to accommodate people with disabilities?

5. What age of participants are we comfortable hosting--youth, families, elderly?

6. What does it mean to be a host in our culture? What does it mean to be in relationship with a short-term mission team?

7. What kind of skills would we like a short-term mission team to bring? For example, are there any special skills that we are looking for—the ability to teach, preach, lead worship, sing, play music, or do construction? Which kinds of skills would fit with what we are doing?

8. Is it safe to host a team at our location? If not, what security measures can be put in place in order to host a team?

9. Do we have a limit as to how many teams we can host in a year?

10. How will we communicate details with the short-term mission team before the trip?

11. What information is critical to communicate to the short-term mission team before the trip?
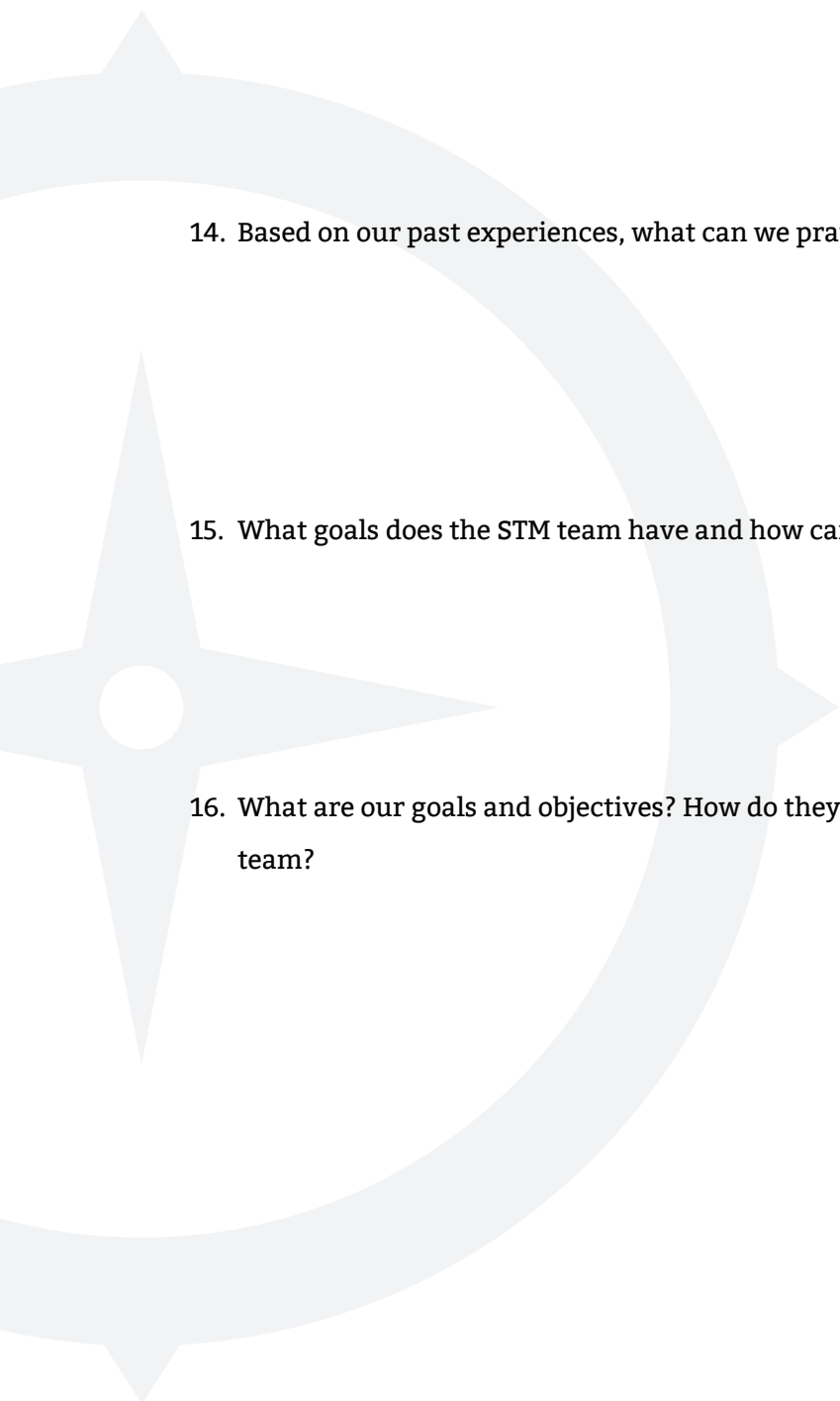
12. Does the short-term mission team have close relationships with any citizens or organizations in our community?

13. Have we welcomed groups before? If so, what have we learned from past experience? Have we established a system of hosting? If not, what do we still need to do to prepare us to host a team?

14. Based on our past experiences, what can we pray for this group?

15. What goals does the STM team have and how can we help them meet their goals?

16. What are our goals and objectives? How do they align with those of the short-term mission team?

17. Are there others factors or connections that would strengthen the possibility that our relationship could extend into the future if that is what we desire? How might we coordinate this with the team leader?

Additional notes: