

# STM Standards of Excellence DRAFT #1

**A**S OF AUGUST 2002, four separate national forums have participated in the 1st-stage submission of brainstorming ideas to be considered for the development of a U.S.-generated voluntary “Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Mission.” Those national forums were:

- **FSTML Annual Conference**  
October 2001 (*IVCF Bear Trap Ranch, Colorado Springs*)
- **STEM Annual Team Leader Training Seminar**  
April 2002 (*Bethany College of Missions, Minneapolis*)
- **Antioch Network Annual Gathering**  
June 2002 (*Mission Palms Resort, Phoenix*)
- **ACMC National Conference**  
August 2002 (*Sheraton Hotel, Atlanta*)

*Although input from other similar national forums and web-based collection of ideas are yet to come, some of the common themes emerging from the first four brainstorming sessions are listed below. (An ad-hoc committee from FSTML has tentatively grouped like ideas together—although such grouping will very likely be changed.)*

- ✓ **God-centered**, Christ-centered, Spirit-led, Biblically-centered, God-glorifying, prayerful, spiritual warfare, Kingdom-expanding, Kingdom-building, Kingdom fruit, God-honoring, faith/trust/vision.
- ✓ **Trained**, prepared, culturally aware, sensitive, equipped, well-planned, relevant training, excellence, commitment, training pre-field/on-field/post-field, Biblical basis for mission, effective debriefing, clear logistics, training focused on

the receivers, training for the receivers as well as the goers, dress and behavior guidelines, flexibility.

- ✓ **MISTM-Grid** (concept is that senders, goer guests, and host receivers are all necessary and equal participants in any short-term mission; and that short-term mission is a process—not an event—that begins pre-field, continues on-field, and extends post-field for all the participants).
- ✓ **Field-Driven**, field-based strategies, invitation from the host field, ministry-motivated, culturally-aware, sending servants, humility, no arrogance, strategic, disciplined, purposeful, locally-applicable results, church-focused, goal-oriented, furthering God’s love, catalyst, boldness, passion for Christ, minimal vacation and site-seeing, everything done is connected to long-term field goals, partnership, non competitive, learner.
- ✓ **Careful Selection**, screening, referenced, applications, don’t just take anybody.
- ✓ **Prayer**, prayer pre-field/on-field/post-field, intercession, prayer covering, spiritual warfare, pray/pray/pray!
- ✓ **Partnership**, mutually beneficial partnerships, networking, cooperation.
- ✓ **De-Briefing**, re-entry, follow-up, evaluation.
- ✓ **Integrity**, accountability, authenticity, transparency, honesty (in leadership, recruiting, promotion, finances & money handling, reporting field results, etc.).
- ✓ **Field Receptivity** (qualified host receivers, trained host receivers, field preparation for the incoming short-term goer guests, support logistics while on the field, helping goer guests plan their ministry tasks and programs in the most strategic manner).
- ✓ **Mission vs. Cross-Cultural Experience** (focus must be primarily upon receivers [intended receptors], the unchurched and unsaved, etc.; secondary focus on discipleship of the goers and on provision/assistance to personal needs of the career missionary [field facilitator]);



clear purpose, clear mission, clear objectives; ministry-driven vs. tourist trip; not doing redundant work while on-field; “regular” mission vs. “frontier” mission).

- ✓ **Life Impact**, life change, transformation, team building, unity, discipleship, relationships vs. events, bridge building, partnerships, dynamics, team dynamics, interpersonal dynamics, dialogue, being vs. doing, mentoring, becoming World Christians, spiritual growth, seeing God work, challenge, relationally-based.
- ✓ **Leadership**, experienced competent leadership, submission to leadership; well-organized, fluidity, flexibility, gifted leadership, equipping others, valuing and using everyone’s gifts, not a one-man show.
- ✓ **Other:** Statement of faith; conflict resolution; Security/Safety/Risks/ Emergencies/ Contingencies; Dependence/Self-Dependence/Inter-Dependence/Self-Sustainability.

**Do you agree or disagree with any of these ideas?**

Then visit [www.FSTML.org](http://www.FSTML.org) and click on the “Standards” button to e-mail your comments and ideas.

**EVERY COMMENT WILL BE CONSIDERED** for the next of five rounds of draft document creation (note that direct personal replies to your e-mailed comments cannot take place).

*ALL INPUT will be considered between now and October 2003*, when the 5th and Final Draft version of a “Standards” document is expected to be officially adopted at the 2003 FSTML Annual Conference.

