



# Chinese International Missions, Inc.

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## So What's Good about STM Trips?

Theresa Poon

CIM has been leading those who have answered and shown obedience to God's call to go on STM (Short-Term Missions) trips for many years now. You might have wondered and considered, "Is it worth the time and money to go?" "Let the people who are holier, more experienced, more qualified go." or "Aren't these trips for the pastors and missions department staff?"

God Calls People Through STM's—There are some amazing things that can take place in the lives of the people on the trips and in the lives of those they touch. The majority of (long-term) missionaries were either called to missions because of a STM trip, or that God used such a trip to solidify their call or give further direction. There is no denying that seeing the field first-hand can have a big impact on a person's life.

STM trips Can Raise Supporters—Those who have seen the fields are more likely to become faithful supporters of missionaries and the mission fields. They will have a better idea of how to pray. Those who went with a STM team have seen some of the difficulties that missionaries and nationals experience on the field. These people also have a greater desire to financially support the mission outreach of their church. The visitor has a chance to see that even just \$100 can help the missionary and nationals obtain more resource materials.

STM's Lead to a Greater Burden To Share The Gospel—Sometimes people think that being on the mission field will help a person become a better witness for the Lord. Now maybe if you are not a good witness at home, you probably won't be on the field either. However, a STM trip can help instill boldness in someone to share their faith because of being around like-minded Christians. Many times they will go home excited about what they saw the Lord do on the field and then carry that burden to share the Gospel with their friends and family that they may have never witnessed to before.

Large Projects Can Be Completed by STM Teams—Sometimes a project requires many man-hours to accomplish. A STM team can come in and do in a week what would take the missionary months or years to complete. There are many projects, such as hosting training sessions for the national leaders or putting up an evangelism gathering, that can perhaps be accomplished or greatly advanced with a STM group. There is something to be said for having a group of people dedicated and focused on a solitary task.

STM's Encourage The Missionary—Missionaries may be starved for Christian fellowship. They are almost certainly starved for people to speak English with and be able to tell a joke and have people laugh. This may also be the only time every year that the missionary and his family get things brought to them on the field. When a team visits it is like Christmas for the missionaries.

A missionary once said that we would never fully understand what life is like on the mission field as long as we are holding a return-trip plane ticket in our hands. How true that is. Many times people will go on a STM trip and feel like they understand the culture and hardships that the missionary faces, when they really get is a glorified view of the mission field. It is possible for a person to think that the types of activities that the team did is what life on the field is like all the time. What they don't see is the missionary standing in line for five hours trying to get his license plate renewed. That the missionary's wife spends two full days of the week running around town trying to get enough groceries for the family. The STM team member does not know about the 2 o'clock in the morning knocks on the door asking the missionary to come comfort a



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## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Thanks to God for the successful holding of CIM Board members' annual meeting in October. Please pray for the promotion and implementation of the resulting decisions and that the board members may execute them according to God's will.
2. Pray for the preparations for STM ministries in South Africa and Brazil for 2020. Prepare brothers' and sister's hearts to participate in the ministry to preach the Gospel.
3. Pray for Rev Douglas and Whitney Wu in the pioneering ministry of Johannesburg and the pasturing at the church in Rustenburg. Pray unceasingly that God will guard their coming and going.
4. Pray for Alex and Nicole to serve in the church at Pretoria. Ask the Lord to give wisdom and grace to lead them. Ask also for the brothers and sisters to evangelize, to be understanding of God's will, and to pray together and serve.
5. The churches that CIM has been in contact with in Brazil are in great need of long-term shepherds to lead and to disciple. Ask God to lead local, and those in North America, leaders and pastoral staff to join the ministry teams, equip the believers, and pass the Gospel to those who have not found directions.
6. The economic downturn is affecting the church in Salvador. Ask God to bless faithful believers to partner together to share the Gospel, and through their serving to allow their spiritual lives to grow.
7. Ask God to allow the brothers and sisters of the Church in Recife to put aside the hard work of the day and willing to participate in Bible study that will allow their faith to take root. Pray especially for the brothers and sisters who have just accepted the Lord and ask God to prepare those who can grow them to be by their side.
8. Ask God to continue to lead the teachers of the Happy Kids and Happy Youth Ministries in São Paulo to have wisdom and discernment to help children and young people not only grow up in their studies but also pray that they would cultivate them spiritually to know God.
9. Ask God to bless the pastor and leaders of the church at Porto Alegre with the same burden of evangelism, lead believers to learn to participate in ministry, and invite new friends to attend church meetings. Especially evangelize to those from China who do small businesses, open their hearts and accept Christ.
10. Ask God to bless the church workers in Campinas to work together to spread the Gospel. That they can actively equip believers and lead believers to learn more about God by learning the Word of God. Ask the Lord to help them continue to pursue growth.
11. Pray for the faith of the brothers and sisters of Brasilia. Please pray for the ministry of Rev and Mrs Steven Hseih with strength upon strength and grace above grace.
12. CIM Canada still strives to carry on cross-cultural missions in Ghana, Togo, and Ukraine. Please ask God to send more believers to participate in the ministry of preaching the Gospel.
13. Ask God to give wisdom to the staff of CIM headquarters, and do their part to complete the ministry of the Lord. Ask God to bring more brothers and sisters to participate in serving, to support CIM ministry, and to make the Kingdom of God more prosperous.
14. Ask God to provide the funding for needs of CIM, especially the General Funds.

family who's son had a tragic accident and was killed.

One thing we do have to be careful when we go on STM's is to not have the arrogance to think that the team's way of life is the only way to do things. See, we may not see ourselves as rich, but if we have more than two shirts or more than one pair of shoes, we are rich in the eyes of the national. We show up on the field with a camera, an iPhone, new jeans, sunglasses worth more than many people make in a month and then we try to convince them we are *not* rich. That just won't cut it.

Now the truth is, when we go to serve others, we will always be blessed by receiving more than we give (Acts 20:35). The trip will be memorable because of the unexpected ways God worked in the team member's lives. Above all, serve God by serving others without a "what's in it for me" attitude and focus only on where God leads us. Then Lord willing, everyone will be blessed.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

October 2019

	Income	Expense	Balance
<b>General</b>	\$3,736	\$6,411	-\$2,675
<b>Missions</b>	\$12,927	\$7,285	\$5,642
<b>Total</b>	\$16,663	\$13,696	\$2,967

To contribute to CIM ministries:

- 1) Make checks payable to "CIM" and mail to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA
- 2) Donate online via credit card, go to: [www.cimusa.org](http://www.cimusa.org). Click on "Give" and follow directions. Thank you!



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