

In October 2001 the Fellowship of Short-Term Missions Leaders (FSTML) began the process of developing a set of Standards of Excellence for American short-term missions. Plans call for the Standards to be adopted at the FSTML annual conference in October 2003.

The following standards would then be ratified by any U.S.-based sending entities (churches, agencies, schools, and other sending groups), U.S.-related Field Facilitators (field-based churches, agencies and other Christian receiving groups), and non-profit organizations (that provide support services to U.S.-related short-term missions efforts), desirous of faithfulness to these standards. Participating organizations will pay an affordable annual fee, and will be publicized on the internet as adherents to the Standards. They will file an annual self-assessment of their adherence to these standards.

The FSTML invites input to the standards offered by evangelical, missions-interested individuals and organizations. You can offer input at www.fstml.org.

Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Missions

An Excellent Short-Term Mission:

- 1** releases . . . **God-centered Kingdom Growth**
 Expressed in the lives of All Participants by:

 - Sound Biblical Doctrine
 - Persistent Prayer
 - Integrity
- 2** is based on . . . **Partnership** between Sending and Receiving Sides
 Expressed by:

 - Primary Focus on Intended Receptors
 - Planned Outcomes Which Benefit All Participants
 - Mutual Accountability
- 3** delivers a program which has been . . . **Mutually Designed**
by Sending and Receiving Sides
 Expressed by:

 - Common Philosophical Base and Alignment to Long-term Strategies / Mission
 - Goer Guests' Ability to Deliver (and Receive)
 - Host Receivers' Ability to Deliver (and Receive)
- 4** provides . . . **Reliable Set-up & Thorough Administration** for All Participants
 Expressed by:

 - Sound Financial Practices
 - Appropriate Risk Management
 - Program Delivery and Support Logistics
- 5** screens, trains, and provides . . . **Qualified Leadership** for All Participants
 Expressed:

 - Pre-field Through Training and Equipping Leadership
 - On-field Through Program Delivery and Support Leadership
 - Post-field Through Debriefing and Follow-up Leadership

or . . . Expressed by:

 - Spiritually Mature Servant Leadership
 - Competent, Interculturally Experienced Leadership
 - Empowering and Equipping Leadership
 - Prepared, Organized and Accountable Leadership
- 6** is evidenced by . . . **Participants Trained & Equipped**
to Deliver the Mutually Designed Program
 Expressed by:

 - Biblical, Appropriate, and Timely Training for All Participants
 - Commitment to Continuous Training (Pre-field, On-field, Post-field)
 - Qualified Trainers
- 7** is committed to . . . **Thorough Debriefing & Follow-up**
for all Participants
 Expressed by:

 - Debriefing Throughout Entire Process (Pre-field, On-field, Post-field)
 - Re-entry Preparation for Goer Guests Prior to Leaving the Field
 - Post-field Follow-up & Evaluations

or . . . Expressed by:

 - Spiritually Mature Servant Leadership
 - Competent, Interculturally Experienced Leadership
 - Empowering and Equippeing Leadership
 - Prepared, Organized and Accountable Leadership