

Journey



God's agent: the church

Helping churches help the poor and oppressed. Churches today are seeking ways to help the poor and oppressed across the globe. We believe the Church is God's agent to reach the world. Therefore, we are profoundly committed to the local church in its mission.

International Teams exists to make Jesus Christ known and see lives and communities across the globe transformed by the power of God. We seek to follow the example of Jesus:

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners,
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.
(Luke 4:18 – 19)*

International Teams workers provide food and friendship to refugees and share the good news of Jesus. In partnership with local churches in Glasgow, new initiatives are providing care for refugees who are refused entry or asylum and remain destitute in the community. Volunteers

from Greek churches in Athens serve meals to refugees and see faith and new hope born.

In poor communities in Cambodia, children are offered education while being told of God's love for them. As they work to bring transformation to the community, the resident team prays for and dreams to see a church planted so individual lives are transformed. Australian churches can share this dream and others like it. There are opportunities to send short-term mission teams and build long-term partnerships in emerging programs in many locations.

27 million people today are enslaved, many as a result of human trafficking. In countries as diverse as USA and Romania, International Teams is working with churches seeking to educate people about the schemes of human traffickers. We seek to prevent enslavement, care for those enslaved and restore victims by mobilising prayer, resources and manpower from within the church.

Maybe like me, you lived through the era when evangelism and social responsibility were seen as bitter rivals. In recent years however I have been challenged in my social responsibility as a Christian. I have learned much from younger people who care deeply about justice.



I have observed people sitting in churches feeling very comfortable about their walk with God and yet unaware that He is at work around the globe. Now I encounter churches who are active in both evangelism and social action and I rejoice at every opportunity to help churches develop long-term global engagement with the poor and oppressed.

International Teams offers churches opportunities to help the poor and oppressed.

Pray. Give. Go.

Janice Collins
National Director

International Teams
new website
coming soon!

How to get your local church involved in global missions

Organise a short-term mission trip

Short-term mission trip helps build long-term partnership

Norm and Janelle Gorrie served as missionaries in North Kenya from 1989 to 1998, training evangelists and pastors for gospel ministry. They recently led a team from their church, St Peter's Anglican, Seven Hills, on a short-term mission trip back to North Kenya.

The team came alongside a North Kenyan church with which St Peter's had developed a 'sister' relationship over the years.

As an ex-missionary himself, Norm knew that effective cross-cultural mission requires careful preparation. He heard about International Teams training through Howard Spencer of AFES who has lead a number of short term mission trips to East Africa and recommended International Teams.

Flexible training ... Over the course of the Friday night and all day Saturday training, six weeks before departure, it became clear to one of the trainers, Andrew Collins, that different members of the team had different goals/ purposes in mind for the mission trip. There was a potential for a lack of unity. Andrew and Norm talked about the overall purpose of the team, and ultimately Andrew was invited back a few weeks later to run an extra training session tailored to help the team understand one another's expectations for the trip.

Becoming a Team ... Norm said, "although most people knew each other before joining the team, the training helped the team to 'gel' and to be prepared for cross-cultural ministry." It also raised awareness of personality differences, which helped while on the mission field as the team were better informed about how to care for one another, taking into account people's different needs and reactions.

Deepening the partnership ... Up until the team went to Kenya, the 'sister' relationship was primarily limited to prayer and financial support.



In Kenya, Norm preached at the church, the team ran a week long workshop for the church on 'creation to new creation' which is the first unit in an International Theological Certificate, helped the pastors and youth leaders run a youth camp where young people from tribes presently in conflict with each other in the region came together to hear the Gospel, and were involved in outreach ministries in local schools.

As the two churches worked together to do ministry, a foundation was laid for developing a deeper partnership in years to come. In the future, Norm hopes to take a team back to North Kenya to teach the next unit in the theological certificate. There are also plans to link individuals from the two churches with one another, to further strengthen the sister relationship at a more personal level. There's even talk of a Facebook group for the two communities - to bring each other closer.

Every church and short-term mission team is different, so we offer flexible tailored training to suit all teams. Contact our Training Coordinator, Andrew Collins, to find out about church team training for your upcoming team.

Visit your missionary



International Teams TOP 3 Rules for Short-Term Missions

1. No complaining
2. Do everything you're asked
3. Leave every place cleaner than you found it.

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Walking in her shoes: a church team visits one of their missionaries

Dalby Presbyterian Church, in Queensland sent out Linda Goldthorpe to Innsbruck, Austria with International Teams in August 2005. The church has been faithfully supporting her since then.

In May 2010 the church took this support to another level by sending a team of 5 people, including the Senior Minister, Ross Pethybridge, on a short-term mission trip to Innsbruck, Austria.

Impacting the team... Ross said that the training they did with International Teams was extremely valuable in many ways. He says, "The training helped short circuit some tricky situations. I remember being in Austria and some of us on team were getting a little frustrated with the constant change of plans. I'd say, 'remember the three key rules in our training?' and a possible volatile situation was quickly diffused."

Impacting the church... Ross has noticed that sending this short-term mission team has played a role in more people from his church investing in missions. They pray more, give more and the church continues to send out more missionaries to the mission field.

As well as growing the church's heart for missions generally, the trip was significant in the church embracing Linda and her ministry. She now has five people who have walked a little in her shoes and who champion her cause in the wider church.

Impacting the missionary.... Linda praised God for the visit from her sending church. The Dalby team helped the refugee team run a lot of activities that would normally be beyond the capacity of the small team. The team helped reach out to refugees alongside Linda, but they were also reaching out to her.

So many lives were impacted through this one small short mission trip.

Want to walk in their shoes? If your church would like to send a short-term team to visit one of your supporting missionaries, contact the International Teams office.

Get trained to lead a team overseas

Last year we trained over 25 men and women from churches and organisations in NSW, VIC, SA and QLD.

Join us for Team Leader Training in 2011 on 14 May, (Adelaide), 27 August (Melbourne), 10 September (Sydney). Dates for Brisbane and NSW Central Coast coming soon.

International Teams helps churches like Kellyville Anglican by training leaders for short-term mission

Natalie Wood from Kellyville Anglican Church in north-west Sydney attended the Team Leader Training (TLT) in August 2010 with her husband, and in January 2011 they led a short-term mission team from their church to Thailand. The team met regularly during the months leading up to the trip, and during this time, what she had learned at TLT helped her help the team bond - and therefore be ready to work together better once on the field!

The training helped while on mission too. In Thailand, Natalie kept coming back to something she had learned at training, that "as leaders, we are facilitators - we can show the team members the new culture...and help them through difficulties, but ultimately they are the ones who will discover it for themselves, through seeking God daily." This truth brought guidance and peace to Natalie in her role as team leader. She rejoiced as she witnessed God at work in the team members lives as He pushed

them out of their comfort zones and was there for them.

Though the team was small and the trip was brief, this trip is helping expand how the church views missions. She says

"Kellyville Anglican has always been a supporting church but not a sending church...this is starting to help them understand the difference and be involved in more than just money and prayer."

One member of the congregation said "I now understand that mission isn't just going and converting the unreached, but having an impact in people's lives where the fruit may not be seen for years to come."

To find out more about how your church can become a sending church and help the poor and oppressed through lasting partnership, contact the International Teams office.

☐☐ **PRAY** for Australian churches to grow their mission to preach the good news and for International Teams as they help churches help the poor and oppressed.

☐☐ **GO** on a short-term mission team with your church, go to learn as an intern or explore other opportunities to serve at www.iteams.org.au

☐☐ **GIVE** to International Teams projects and missionaries and play a part in transforming lives and communities.



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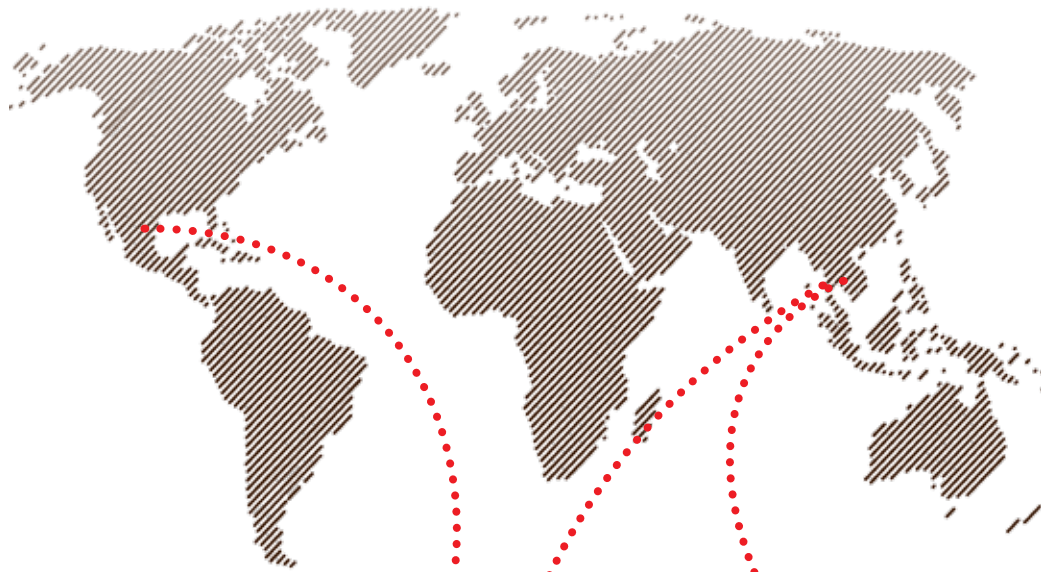
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Mission opportunities for churches

Get involved and partner long-term with these various ministries through sending short-term teams, prayer and giving!



Café Renovarte, Mexico

Phil Jones, sent from Balwyn Gospel Chapel, Melbourne with International Teams, has established Café Renovarte, a café in Queretaro Mexico, which is reaching out to University Students with the Gospel. Opportunities exist for Australian churches and individuals to partner with the program through prayer and financial support, or to go and serve on a short or long-term basis...provided you love coffee of course!



Project Blessing, Cambodia

In a disadvantaged community in rural Cambodia, children and their families are learning safe hygiene, receiving education and learning about Jesus' love.



Shalom Centre, Cambodia

Children who might otherwise be at risk of violence and trafficking are coming to faith in God as they receive lessons in math, Khmer, Vietnamese, Bible and health and safety. See Vietnamese refugee children rescued from darkness and danger into light.

Anti-Slavery Ministries

International Teams is working to end modern-day slavery around the world. We have an outreach team in Athens and are growing a new Anti-Slavery Team in Australia. Opportunities exist for churches and individuals to partner with these ministries, so that the captives are set free.



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