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**Discipling Disciplers**

Combining the Great Commission mandate with 2 Timothy discipleship instructions is discipling disciplers! This is the heart of Simply The Story (STS). We teach believers how to study the Bible and how to easily share accurate stories and lead discussions using questions. But we also teach these believers how to train others.

Much is being written and said about the effectiveness (or non-effectiveness) of short-term mission (STM) trips:

- Whether or not the in-country hosts of the teams receive lasting value.
- Whether the cost in the host’s lost work-time and energy is offset by the ministering of the team.
- Whether there is measurable spiritual impact on the lives of the team members.

All those value-received questions are a matter of debate.

Our experience is this: When short-term mission teams trained in STS style of preparing and sharing stories, the effectiveness value received in all three of the above areas is very high. We have trained people in workshops who were as young as 13-years old and as old as 70, to prepare them to go on a short term trip. Additionally, they saw the results of blessings and long-term good impact on those who they trained.

To a person, those teams our STS staff have trained, who then went on to use their new STS skills in other countries...
Results and Testimonies From Short Term Mission Trips

Scary Decision on the Eve of Service

My co-worker and I had planned to use our newly acquired STS skill on our short term trip to Guatemala.

She flat out told us it would not work! She said Guatemalans are not encouraged to think for themselves.

The two of us “storytelling missionaries” met later that night, after all the others had gone to bed, to talk about what to do.

I told her I believed we needed to proceed as planned, and that I wanted to find out for myself whether or not it would work.

Over the three nights, 6 people accepted Christ: 4 adults and 2 kids! They all come out of the Mayan religion.

What makes his story so special is that 2 months earlier, Pastor Manuel had talked with him about accepting Christ.

We made home visits in the afternoons, and in two different homes I had the opportunity to tell a story.

Pastor Manuel told me Thursday night, “In my 40+ years in ministry, I have never seen such a simple, yet effective method of sharing the Gospel!”

I am tentatively planning to return to Guatemala again, so I'm very excited to do more storytelling with them.

USA Based Christian
"People Stopped Coming"

I have been training and leading short-term mission teams to various places in the world for 22 years. We would plant churches by using music, evangelistic mimes, evangelism techniques, testimonies and Bible teaching.

It would draw a crowd but never did I hear people say that they heard God speak to them through what they heard. Most people stopped coming after the team left because their interest was superficial.

What I've seen happen when our teams used STS Bible storytelling, and followed with inductive questions ... had their eyes opened to who the God of the Bible is and were drawn to Him by his character as revealed in the stories.

Some comment that God speaks to them personally through the stories and changes their lives. Lasting fruit in the form of growing disciples is the result.

MM Seattle

India Triple Growth

Eleven attendees on a team, led by one experienced STS instructor, traveled to India on a short-term mission trip. ... Most of the Indian attendees were leaders from a growing church with over 11,000 members that works mostly in the slums.

Within three months the Indian leader of this large church reported to us, "We have changed over completely to using STS to deliver messages in our worship service. Then, during the week, the leaders use the same story in the cell church they each lead in the slums.

"We have tripled our growth rate. And it is not just more people being saved and added to the church. We are seeing more new leaders stepping out and establishing cell churches. So STS has added members and leaders!"

Japan: Starting to Respond

I appreciate so much that you had the first STS seminar ever in Japan at our church. It was very nice that I had joyful and refreshing seminar. "This week Pastor Ueda of this church used STS way of delivering message at the service. I am always using STS way.

Even though it's still a little hard to do at the services, but every time when I give message from Bible, I don't look at people anymore. I can feel the people more alive for this new way. I can't say I'm not feeling a little hesitation about changing at this age, but I don't want to stick to old ways, so I am enjoying this way very much now.

People are hoping that you will have another seminar like this one again in Japan.

Japan: Zaccheaus Story ... One Lady Accepted The Lord.
Short Term Mission Trips

In our church, since July, twice a month, we are continually studying the Bible STS way mainly with the people who attended the STS workshop this past summer. Twelve people have been attending.

I’ve told Martha Mary my STS way in church last weekend during conference, both Saturday and Sunday. At dinner, I told ... When I said this, all of the Japanese were so amazed. They exclaimed, “Ohhhhh aahhh.” These are big numbers for Japan!

There’s a lady here who heard me speak a few months ago. She’s been doing stories since then. She did Zaccheaus story and ... one lady told the Zaccheaus story to a non-believer who then told that story to another non-believer who accepted Jesus.

Yoshi shared the One Leper story last night to a college aged youth group getting together to play the WII. Yoshi shared ... too. Yoshi spent time focusing on the leper’s disobedience. I’m excited and curious to hear what happens after this.”

Hamasaki

Malawi: Who Would Have Thought?

A very quiet lady came to our California STS. Her husband is the mission team leader at her church. She wrote ...

“We used the God's Story solar player to fill in when we had a crowd and the translators were late. So much...”

“We used the STS stories of Martha and Mary, Good Samaritan, Jars of Oil and Jarius Daughter. We used...”

She does not mention in her letter this wonderful information ... that she was the one telling the stories!

Philippines: Open a Training Center Using STS

“Hi bro Tony what a wonderfully that our God bless us and allow us that we can meet. by the way when...”

“I believe that God has me to open a training center using STS method also in my curriculum one year program. Please...”

Pastor, E. B.”

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See more on short-term mission trips by clicking "Pick Your Spot" on "Mountain Top Mission Trips" on the Home Page.