

JUBILEE CENTRE

'Daring to be Salt of the Earth
and Light of the World'

Jubilee Centre exists to *empower churches, communities, and their leaders to grow spiritually, flourish physically, and have a voice in the world.*



Jubilee Centre is a Christian “think tank with legs” – an organization equipping and serving pastors, professionals, missionaries and Christian leaders to bring about change in the moral, economical, and political transformation of Zambia. It has extensive experience of leading by example, modelling Christian engagement with people living in economic poverty, and building capacity of church and civic leaders.

Jubilee Centre also produces the 'Monday Issue' every week – a thought provoking examination of a contemporary issue relevant to Christians in Zambia and beyond. To subscribe to our email mailing lists visit www.jubileecentre.org or email us at mail@jubileecentre.org

Website: www.jubileecentre.org
Email: mail@jubileecentre.org
Tel: +260 (0)2 681 482 / 681 172
Address: PO Box 70519, 30 Lualaba Road, Kansenshi, Ndola, Zambia

INFO SHEET

June 2007

JUBILEE CENTRE SHORT TERM LEARNING TEAMS (STLT)

1. Introduction

STLT revolves around a simple theme: Christians desiring to be transformed through cross cultural encounters. Working together, Christians from around the world can profoundly deepen their faith and can empower the global and local church to engage in the transformational work of building Gods kingdom.

STLT with Jubilee Centre (JC) began in 2000 when JC partnered with local churches in Ndola and a team 26 medical practitioners from Christian Medical and Dental Association in the USA. In this five day outreach, a US medical group partnered with Zambian church leaders to create a team of 10 local churches, 100 local Christian volunteers, 10 community leaders and 6 local nurses. This team saw over 700 make decision for Christ and over 2000 attended to for various sicknesses and dental problems. The USA participants confessed of experiencing spiritual and cultural renewal as a result of this encounter that transformed many lives from people of different nations.

Since then, JC has continued to host STLT with various groups. Those involved are looking for ways to extend the love of God to the world beyond them and are willing to receive the love of God through this encounter. Over the years JC STLT have grown, addressing the issues of HIV/AIDS prevention and care, poverty, orphans, building construction, leadership training, medical care, evangelism, church growth and business seminars.

The desire of JC's STLT are to promote partnerships with churches and groups who, through these encounters, will make a long-term commitment to fighting global poverty through the local church, thereby bringing mutual and lasting spiritual, social and developmental transformation.

2. Why STLT?

The goal of Jubilee Centre is to “empower churches, communities and their leaders to grow spiritually, flourish physically and have a voice in the world” on issues that concern them and those around them. JC focuses on communities where people are living in poverty and often feel powerless. JC's concern is to see restored relationship in all their fullness, not just spiritual well-being. Through the STLT, Christians are encouraged, empowered, and given the resources needed to effect change in their communities.

Our format for “missions trips” changed towards “learning teams” when we realised that those who came with an attitude of *giving and receiving*

had a better experience and were able to connect, at a deeper level, with the Zambian communities. Those who came to share with – and learn from – others often left with a deeper understanding of issues related to poverty and injustice. To see what is happening in God's church at the periphery helps people to understand that they are not at the centre of Christianity and that God's church (and God's world) are vast and wonderfully diverse. If people allow themselves to step outside of their comfort zones, and accept they are dependent on the help of others to adjust to a new community and build friendships, they will begin to see their faith more as the communal faith it is meant to be. To build relationships with people from different 'tribes' (we are all from some sort of tribe) people start to look at their own lives, and faith, with new eyes.

And here in Zambia, instead of merely giving to people, we seek to use the teams to empower the local community. What we want are teams who are willing to come and learn from their Christian brothers and sisters, thereby building local confidence. All too often local confidence is eroded by people being made to feel they have nothing to offer and that they should just wait for solutions to come from outside helpers. Sharing and learning together shows that we all have something to offer and can give to one another, thereby, building confidence.

3. Who is eligible for the STLT?

We welcome any Christian church or missions group desiring to learn from Zambian Christians, to experience their lives, and to share some of their own. Since JC is committed to empowering local communities of Christians through global partnerships, we welcome people who are humble in knowing they themselves need to change; humble in knowing that they do not have all the answers but have a heart willing to seek solutions together; and humble enough to come with no agenda or expectations. We want people to come and be transformed by this experience who will then go back to their home communities to continue to build the local and global Church.

The STLT program adapts to the size and type of group coming. We welcome groups of youth, adults, or multigenerational groups. Youth groups can partner with Zambian youth, in order to share their experiences and to explore and discuss stereotypes of each other such as what it means to be 'western' or Zambian. Adult groups will explore and analyse notions of poverty and justice outside of the Western comfort zone. All groups will experience a new cultural worldview, and appreciate how that influences Christian living and faith.

Those participating in STLT should aspire to working together as part of an international team. Groups need to be aware that 'outsiders' (e.g. Americans and Europeans) are often seen as having the answers which gives them a lot of power in a local situation. To change this power relation, participants should ask questions, listen first and learn from those with whom they are staying. Those participating in STLT should come first to listen and learn, and then to encourage and finally to all share expertise together with their Zambian brothers and sisters.

4. Why should you volunteer for an STLT Trip?

An STLT trip goes beyond the typical 'missions' trip. Through exploring life in marginalised communities, participants can develop relationships that will transform not only their own lives, but also the lives of those around them. They will empower local communities and give them confidence through friendships, questions and interest in their lives. STLT trips allow participants to partner with Jesus' partners: the hungry, the poor, those with HIV/AIDS, and the powerless. These partnerships will engage the community, giving them key resources in their work towards eliminating poverty, helping those with HIV/AIDS, caring for orphans, constructing community and church buildings, training leaders, and providing health care. At the same time, your witness will help promote evangelism and church growth.

Through this program, participants will learn to think and live *beyond*: beyond their communities, beyond their cultures, beyond their perceptions of power and beyond your comfort zone.

Some helpful and unhelpful practices - A checklist for you.

As you come to Zambia you should:

- Come with flexibility. Visitors come to be a part of what is already going on, so need to be okay if their need to 'do something' isn't met right away.
- Come to build relationships. Part of being in a global body of Christ means relating to those around the world. A "good" missionary will focus on the *people* they are coming to be with, rather than the *events* they are coming to do.
- Come with an attitude of listening and learning. Not only does this help understanding about Zambia and the people, but it also empowers local Zambians to explain their ways of thinking and doing things. This builds confidence and encourages local people in the work they have already been doing.
- Come to follow, instead of to lead. While we are called to "go and make disciples" it is only after we have already "come and followed" Jesus. When you come, follow what the Lord is already doing in and through His people here. It is about relationships first – and actions second.
- Bring appropriate gifts. Sharing resources is part of Gods call on our lives. People are welcome to offer gifts of money to support the practical work being done in communities, such as buying food for patients or footballs for the youth. Many of these things can be brought in Zambia and it will build local businesses to buy things locally. Things that might be more necessary to bring from your home countries are good quality second hand mobile phones, new underwear for young people going to school, some office and schools equipment. *Please check with Jubilee centre what would be appropriate before coming.*
- Come ready to encourage anyone. It is not just people in the poorest communities that need friendship and support and look forward to cross cultural interaction. There are often many people working behind the scenes to make these programmes happen who should also be part of the cross cultural exchange of ideas and support.

As you come to Zambia you should try not to do:

- Don't come with a 'to-do' list. Being goal-oriented and numbers-focused limits both the impact you are able to have in Zambia, as well as the impact Zambia has on you. Instead of coming with the goal of building a church, preaching to a certain number of people, or 'fixing' problems as a team, come with flexibility, and with the perspective of standing with others, instead of doing something yourself.
- Don't come to appease a sense of guilt. Don't come to Zambia because you think you should – and don't think that coming for a few weeks relieves your responsibility to be members of a global body of Christ. Come out of a genuine desire to learn, grow, help and be a part of something.
- Don't come with unwanted extra stuff. Children in Zambia do not need much of the consumerist junk that plague the West, such as plastic jewellery, cheap toys or little candies. Think about the long-term effects of what you bring and what you give away: Most Zambians burn their trash, so, for example, cheap plastic toys will eventually end up being disposed of by burning, which means children will be breathing their toys – quite literally. Little candies can be bad for teeth, made worse when the family can't afford a dentist. So think twice about bringing little things to give away to everyone – instead think about bringing meaningful things for those with whom you are building relationships. Or, you could come with just yourself, a smile, and a sincere 'thanks' for those who receive you while you are here.
- Don't come thinking you are at the 'centre'. The people you will meet here are here before you come – and will be here after you leave. When you come, join in on their lives – instead of mandating they work around your schedule. Also realise that they know how to work in the local conditions – so come asking questions, even for things you may know how to do in your culture. "How do you preach the gospel here?" might be a more important question than you think.

5. How people can make long-term commitment.

After people have participated in an STLT trip, JC hopes they will make a long-term commitment to the communities and to fighting global poverty. This could come in the form of prayer, financial support, continued support of JC's programmes and interaction with those they met, living a lifestyle that does not harm creation or other local communities such as through unfair trade, and making a long term commitment to campaign against global poverty. There are so many ways to find out about how you can remain involved. Spend some time researching, especially on the web where there are hundreds of websites ready to help you. Some that we would recommend are:

For Campaigning/Advocacy: www.micahchallenge.org www.one.org
www.tearfund.org

For Lifestyle issues: www.coopamerica.org www.surefish.co.uk/ethical_living

It would also be possible for you to make a longer-term commitment as part of your ongoing experience. Since the program is geared towards learning and empowering others, we pray for continued involvement with your church or missions group. JC welcomes your ongoing prayer and financial support for our programmes. Details for this are available on our website or in leaflet form when you visit.

We also produce a weekly Monday Issue which looks at socio-economic and political issues facing Zambia and the southern Africa region. You could also keep up to date with our work through receiving our monthly newsletter. Please also look at getting involved in Micah Challenge. This is a campaign calling Christians to "do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God", by mobilizing Christians against poverty. Jubilee Centre is the national facilitator in Zambia which we will tell you more about when you visit, but there will also be Micah Challenge campaigns in your own country for you to continue the work of fighting global poverty.

To reflect further on missions and the approach of the STLT trips, read the articles on our website under the STLT section. We have put up some articles that we think you will find interesting and we have added some questions for you to explore further with your group or church.

JUBILEE CENTRE

'Daring to be Salt of the Earth and Light of the World'

Website: www.jubileecentre.org

Email: mail@jubileecentre.org Tel: +260 (0)2 681 482 / 681 172

Address: PO Box 70519, 30 Lualaba Road, Kansenshi, Ndola, Zambia