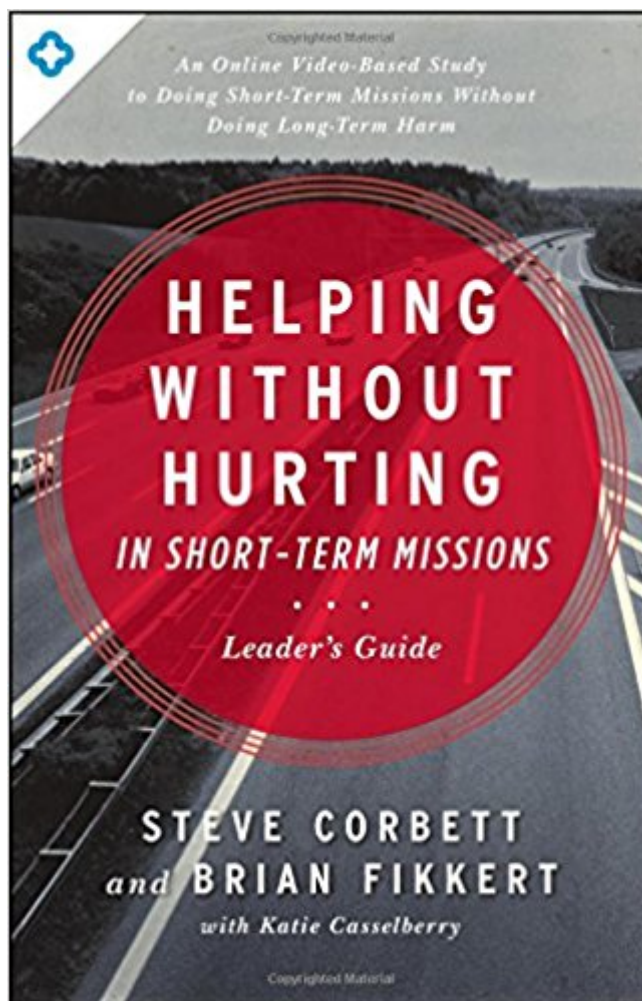


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# Helping Without Hurting In Short-Term Missions: Leader's Guide



## Synopsis

With over 300,000 copies in print, *When Helping Hurts* is a paradigm-forming contemporary classic on the subject of poverty alleviation. This stand-alone resource applies the principles of that book specifically to short term missions. *Helping Without Hurting: Short Term Missions Leader's Guide* is aimed at the preparation and debriefing of short-term missionaries. Accompanying *Helping Without Hurting: Short Term Missions Participants' Guide*, it is an ideal resource for church leaders, missions pastors, and youth pastors who make short-term missions planning decisions and desire to prevent inadvertent harm as they enter materially poor communities. With direction for designing STMs well in light of the principles of *When Helping Hurts*, practical examples from short-term trips to illustrate those principles, and suggested resources for further learning and implementation, this guide is an all-in-one manual for leaders. Plus, it shows the content of the participant's guide with annotation and teaching notes to guide leaders as they facilitate sessions with participants.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Our world is rapidly changing, even in the way we do Christ-exalting missions! In this helpful book, the Chalmers Center has given us an insightful resource that will equip short-term mission teams to avoid pitfalls of crossing cultures, especially for those embarking on communities challenged by poverty. Teams will build their capacity to learn well, honor partnerships and maximize the good they wish to do by using this guidebook to help design their objectives with faithful presence, understanding and humility. JOHN H. SATHER, National Director of

"Cru Inner City" . . . This [curriculum] takes the best of the revolutionary work from *When Helping Hurts* and makes it practical for short-term mission teams traveling near and far. I highly commend this resource to you as a way to serve with cultural intelligence. DAVID LIVERMORE, PhD, Author of *Serving with Eyes Wide Open: Doing Short-Term Missions with Cultural Intelligence* . . . Being a community development organization that has sent thousands of people on short-term trips to developing countries over the years, we are thrilled to introduce Fikkert and Corbett's latest work as a relevant, vital resource for our staff and teams. It is our strong desire that every church, school, and NGO sending (or receiving) short-term teams would not only read this book, but study it critically evaluating the work being accomplished, and applying its principles to ensure teams are "helping without hurting." KURT KANDLER, Executive Director of The 410 Bridge . . . If everyone responsible for sending or receiving a short-term service team can work through this resource and take seriously its recommendations I have no doubt that we will see the fruit in changed lives and stronger relationships within the global church. BRIAN HOWELL, PhD, Professor of Anthropology at Wheaton College, author of *Short-Term Mission: An Ethnography of Christian Travel Narrative and Experience* *Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions* is one of the most useful guides on STM in print. . . . [When Helping Hurts] shaped the way compassionate people should think about engaging the materially poor. This book guides the way for short-term missionaries to accompany the poor in real and lasting transformation. DANIEL RICKETT, PhD, Cofounder of Coalition on the Support of Indigenous Ministries, author of *Making Your Partnership Work* . . . These principles will help the church move beyond good intentions and toward a discipleship model that equips team members to become life long missionaries wherever they are, encourages partnership with local churches globally, and truly helps advance the work of God globally. JEFF WARD, Director of External Focus at Watermark Community Church . . . What really sells me on these materials is that they address what to me is the #1 question for STM participants: How do we make sure the two week mission experience turns into a long-term commitment both to the project we visited and to serving in the communities where we live? KURT VER BEEK, PhD, Professor of Sociology at Calvin College . . . There is no short cut to living the incarnation among others in another culture. Anyone serious about truly helping will immediately see the value of this book and be grateful to put it to good use. SCOTT STEELE, Executive Director at Cherokee Gives Back Foundation Finally, a short-term missions curriculum that gets it right! For too long church leaders have known something is wrong with the way the church does short-term missions, but not how to fix it. This book will change that. It starts

with an honest appraisal of the mistakes we've been making but moves on to provide smart, practical tools to transform the way we do short-term missions. A must read for any group that wants to do short-term missions right. Two thumbs way up!

JO ANN VAN ENGEN, Co-director, Semester in Honduras, Calvin College

Our short-term mission culture warrants major rethinking. This book is a priceless tool because it helps do just that, providing an alternative paradigm for cross-cultural engagement and a framework for the "messy" process of reform. . .

TIM RITTER, Discipleship Coordinator at Reality SF

Yes, yes, yes! This book could change the way we do missions. Every chapter is right on target, delineating the costs and complexity of a trip, and demonstrating how to make it part of long-term engagement. . .

MIRIAM ADENEY, PhD, Associate Professor of Global and Urban Ministry at Seattle Pacific University, author of Kingdom Without Borders: The Untold Story of Global Christianity

This book challenges stewardship of our finances, encourages accountability, and acknowledges that cross-cultural interaction is an incredible process when done with plenty of grace.

MCKENNA RAASCH, Director of Global Outreach at Calvary Church, Los Gatos

Good intentions are not enough. We need a different framework for thinking about poverty. Rather than simply defining it as a lack of material things, this approach addressed the roots of the issue: broken relationships with God, self, others, and the rest of creation. What does this mean for your church's short-term mission trips to materially poor communities?

Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions: Leader's Guide

With so many Americans taking short term missions trips, it's high time there is a book that clearly says WHY these trips can be good for both the traveller and the persons visited and WHAT is needed to make that happen. If you only read one book before going, this is the one to read. This series of books holds at their core the central tenet that we are all broken people in need of something that the other can supply, so holding an attitude of superiority over the economically challenged is epically ugly. Further, groups going on short term missions trips can either really help or harm a local ministry, so the authors' suggestions about how to determine what is actually helpful is welcome in an age where 'mission trip' often bears more resemblance to tourism than ministry. If more groups started asking the questions this book presents about why they want to go on a short term mission, and if we learn to let the ones we 'help' tell us how to do that effectively, and if we learn to adopt a spirit of humility about what we can do for others, reading this book will have been worth it. I think that there is one more area in which the book can help: moulding attitudes of those

who wonder why we didn't just send them our money. Our friends in the developing world need to see the value of personal relationships with us, just as we need the same. This book will provide a good basis for individuals and groups to approach this most difficult aspect of doing short term missions.

The original book fundamentally changed how our organization handled STM teams coming to our country and also impacted the decisions we made in our day to day ministry. However, these new resources that are tailored directly to STMs are taking the depth of the content / principles and allowing it to be applied and discussed by groups of people without having to first convince them they need to read a book. The biggest challenge I've faced in having these conversations with people over the years is that you can't convince them they need to read the book and even if you do, it's not a guarantee that they will really be able to grasp the heart of the message, particularly when it is not taught/processed in a group setting. But now there are videos, for both general Helping Without Hurting but also this book / video series specifically for STMs that goes along with this leader's guide. After failing to convince US team leaders that they need to read the material before coming on their one week trip I decided to simply show them the video's and lead them through the entire book during their 7 days....it was rough at times, but the video's are so well done that they make up for my lack of experience, and even though myself and the team butted heads pretty hard (especially after lesson's 2 and 3), after a few days we all really started to see the difference. Praise God at the end of the week they stood in tears before our staff at our school (the STM team had been with us at our boarding school for the week and typically has great rapport with the students but not the staff) and repented of their God-complexes and committed to focusing more on building healthy relationships and walking alongside of us according to our true needs, rather than coming in and trying to fix all our physical/material problems, which in some ways they had done over the last 10 years (although this team has made some really healthy relationships over the years it was never the "purpose" of the trip, particularly with larger construction projects of the past). It has taught our staff a lot and we are eager to continue pressing on with the Biblical framework layed out in this book. This material is a **MUST** for everyone. Not optional. Particularly if you are going on a cross-cultural ministry trip of any kind.

This is a very useful book. No one should consider going on one more short-term missions trip without reading it. It completely reframes the context for weeklong or two-week trips to avoid unintentionally harming the work going on overseas, and it encourages participants to learn about

what God is already doing through the Majority World churches they visit. Very practical and well-thought out aids for preparing participants for their trip are included.

Excellent book. A must-read for any short-term mission trip leader. I worked with global church and community leaders in Central America for over ten years receiving U.S. delegations or short-term mission groups. This is the best book I've seen for leaders to gain a concrete understanding of how to work with a U.S. group and the mission site hosts or partners in mutually healthy, effective and beneficial service.

Mandatory for anyone planning missions, local or global.

This was a great book to get us thinking and helped to change the direction of our Love INC of Pierce County mission. We got use to just giving away a lot of free things to people who were asking for it, but saw no transformation in the way they lived. We stopped doing that and started a program called Jobs for Life to walk alongside of people with support and encouragement as they took more initiative for their lives and outcomes within a very supportive environment. To God be the glory lives are changing all the time now and the students who participate are in such a better place!

Very thought provoking. Helped my church decide that it was better to support an existing mission in Peru for the next mission trip.

Good read with some practical information about participating and organizing short term missions. Highly recommended. It does have many of the same information as their When Helping Hurts book but puts it in a different context so it's more fresh and practical. The book was shorter than I expected but still packed with good ideas.

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