

ORIENTATION SHORT-TERM MISSION TEAMS – PRINCIPLES

5 Guiding Principles for In His Steps

1) IHS is a Christ-centered ministry.

- * Acknowledges Christ in all we do. (Prov. 3:5, 6)
- * Represents Christ in all we do. (Col. 3:17)
- * Glorify Christ in thoughts and actions. (I Cor. 10:31)
- * Elevate Christ by proclamation and demonstration. (Acts 1:8; Gal. 6:10)

2) IHS is a people-oriented ministry.

- * We recognize that all individuals are created in God's image and have great worth and dignity. (Gen. 1:26)
- * We believe all people have fallen short of God's glory and need salvation through Christ. (Rom. 6:23; Is. 53:6)
- * We believe IHS ministry is to specific target groups of people (children, youth, their parents and those of various racial and ethnic groups).

3) IHS is a faith-driven organization. (Prov. 3:5, 6)

- * Jasper and Carolyn trusted God to develop IHS in 1994.
- * The IHS board and staff have trusted God to sustain this organization for 20 years. (I Thes. 5:24)
- * The board IHS board and staff are trusting God for future development. (I Thes. 5:24)

4) IHS is an evangelistic-focused organization. (Matt. 25:18-20)

- * IHS primary objective is to proclaim Christ.
- * IHS objective is to incorporate the gospel message into all its programs. (II Tim. 3:17; I John 3:18)

5) IHS is a compassion-filled organization. (Matt. 9:36)

The word compassion is derived from the Latin words *pati* and *cum* which together mean "to suffer with." Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means feel immersion in the condition of being human. When we look at compassion this way, it becomes clear that something more is involved than a general kindness or tenderheartedness. It is not surprising that compassion, understood as suffering with, often evokes in us a deep resistance and even protest.

Compassion is love in action.

- * We believe IHS is called to enter into the brokenness and pain of people.
- * We believe IHS is called to love in "close up" relational ways. (John 1:19)

Concluding thoughts.

- 1) Don't forget you and I will be representing Christ and IHS this week.
- 2) Don't forget your service in the Saw Mill Quarters will have a positive or negative affect on those you serve.